



Prairiewood High School

"Challenging Students for the future."

Monthly Bulletin

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May, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES!

Term 2 - 2008

11th & 12th JUNE

School Athletics
Carnival

24-25.6.08

Zone Athletics
Carnival

2.7.08 – Parent
Teacher Evening

4.7.08 – Last day
of Term 2

21.7.08 – Staff
Development
Day

22.7.08 – Term 3
commences.

PROMOTING OUR SCHOOL IMAGE

Have you noticed our new school signs ... or our improved front garden area? These are a result of one of our school's targets for 2008 being to further promote and improve our school image. All students can contribute by always doing the right thing... when out in the street, on the bus or over at Stocklands. Special thanks to the students and staff who continue to work hard to promote a positive school image.

It's important that we have a whole school TEAM effort.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

On 30th April, 2008, Prairiewood High School students and staff participated in a formal ANZAC Day Ceremony commemorating those lives lost in the Great War, and also those Australians who have lost their lives as a result of involvement in wars since then. During the ceremony we had a special guest from Smithfield RSL, Mr Thompson, who was a veteran of war. The assembly included the "Last Post", a poem and a musical performance by our Year 11 Music class. After the assembly a small group of us had the privilege to speak privately with Mr Thompson about the various experiences that he encountered in war. It was a very emotional moment in which students were taken back by the riveting details of his experiences. We like to pay our respects to all of those men and women who fought in war, for the country they call 'home'.

~ Shaun Williams, Dean Young

"Lest We Forget"

From the Principal

Regional Director's Visit

We were honoured to have a visit several weeks ago by our Regional Director, Mr Tom Urry and School Education Director for Hoxton group of schools, Mr Ray Palmer. After being greeted by our School Captains, he spent time speaking with students and staff about programs in which our students are involved – whilst enjoying some genuine Prairiewood hospitality provided by our Special Education Catering Team. Mr Urry commented especially on the levels of enthusiasm and commitment of both students and staff with whom he spoke, as well as the interesting discussions and positive feedback he received about a range of issues important to the Department of Education and to our school.

The Regional Director's visit provided a great opportunity to showcase our school, especially in terms of some of the outstanding work being done by both staff and students – in Quality Teaching and Learning experiences for students and in the important areas of student welfare and extra-curricular programs.



School Motto: "Per Ardua" ... through striving

why not visit us at... www.prairiewoodhigh.com.au

Academically Selective Classes at PHS

The latest, very exciting news for our school is the Minister's announcement about a week ago that Prairiewood High School has been selected as a partially selective high school – with two selective classes to be established in Year 7 as from the start of 2010. What a great honour for our school! It is important to keep in mind that students in the two new selective classes will be allocated based on the results they achieve in the NSW Selective High Schools Test held in March next year. All other students who are "in area" for enrolment at Prairiewood High School will continue to be accepted for enrolment at our school but we may need to restrict the number of special case "out of area" students we can enrol as from 2010. More news on this issue will be published as it becomes available.

Been to a P&C Meeting Lately?

Lots of positive feedback has been received about the special discussion topics and presentations included in our P&C meetings on the FIRST Wednesday of each month during school terms. Dave Brown from the Fairfield/Wetherill Park Police presented a great deal of information and advice to parents about the current issue in our society relating to teenagers and binge drinking. Parents found the information very interesting and useful and raised a range of questions for discussion. Senior Constable Brown has also been involved in the planning of similar sessions for students in Years 10-12 (and later for Year 7-9) which is being organised as a student welfare initiative at Prairiewood. At last week's meeting, it was decided to hold a "**Cyber Savvy – What Every Parent Needs to Know**" special information evening for parents only in August. Watch out for more information about this!

Parent Teacher Night - Wed 2nd July

All parents are reminded about this very important date in our school calendar – a great opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss student achievement and progress during the first half of this year. As always, interview times are limited and parents requiring any long interviews with teachers are invited to make a special appointment via the Year Adviser. At the moment I am meeting with Year 12 and Year 11 students to discuss Half Yearly Reports – especially in cases where students appear to be experiencing great difficulty. Formal interviews with parents of these students will also be arranged over the next couple of weeks.

Student Absences

All parents need to realise the importance of providing a note of explanation for all student absences. The new DET computer system installed in schools automatically enters an UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCE for all students who do not provide a note within SEVEN days. Please ensure that these notes are forwarded on the day following an absence and check that your son/daughter has actually handed it in to the roll teacher. Thank you. As has always been the case, the principal has the right to accept or reject a reason as being valid to justify an absence from school – especially for students under 15 years of age.

Year 7 Adventure Days "Camp"

As part of a peer support initiative, most Year 7 students will be participating in this special program of activities which has been organised to replace a more formal two day camp which many parents have indicated in past years is too expensive. Student leaders will also be involved in these two days.

Fundraising at School

Please be aware that only fundraising drives approved by the principal (and arranged as part of school programs and initiatives) can take place at school. Students are not permitted to sell chocolates or guessing competition tickets at school for non-school programs without approval.

New School Building...?

Believe it or not – the first sods of dirt HAVE been turned and the new building is currently under construction, off site. I am looking forward to taking a look at the progress so far in the next week or so. Hopefully, if everything goes according to plan, we should have access to the newly completed building from the beginning of Term 3 this year.

Volleyball Success for Girls AND Boys

I would like to draw your attention to an article about the recent and significant successes of **both** our Girls' and Boys' volleyball teams this year – certainly a great achievement! Well done.

Student Newspaper

Have you seen a copy of the new student-produced newspaper yet? The second edition has now been published and the team of students and staff responsible is to be congratulated. Well done!

~ J. Pickering (Principal)

Educational Programs

English Faculty

Excursion to the Jewish Museum

On the 15th May Mrs Oakley and Mrs Magee's English classes went to the Sydney Jewish Museum. They had been studying the novel 'Briar Rose' in English, which is about a Holocaust survivor.

The Museum visit was very informative and quite emotional. Students saw images from the ghettos, formed during World War II, and learnt about the starvation and diseases within them. They read accounts of the Jewish people who were taken to Concentration and Extermination Camps. They met several Holocaust survivors who spoke about the many family members they had lost.

The classes were fortunate enough to have one survivor, Peter Rossler, give them a talk about his remarkable life. Rossler revealed how his extended family had been relocated to a Polish ghetto, where he lost sixteen relatives.

With his brother, his only surviving relative, Peter was sent to Aushwitz. At the entrance to the camp Peter's brother was sent, right, into the camp. He was sent, left, to join the line that lead to the gas chambers. Peter instinctively changed lines to be with his brother. The guard didn't stop him, thus he survives today. His story of hardship during the camp and the luck he had that enabled him to be eventually liberated amazed and enthralled the students.

The classes found the excursion to be extremely beneficial. They now understand the context and characters of the novel they are studying.

Technology & Applied Sciences Faculty

Community and Family Studies

Movie Excursion:

'Hey! Hey! It's Esther Blueburger'

As part of our Community and Family Studies (CAFS) curriculum, Year 11 CAFS students attended the Stocklands Hoyts cinemas at 11:15 on Wednesday 9th April 2008 to see the last screening of "Hey! Hey! It's Ester Blueburger". The film related to our current topic, "Group Formation and Belonging".

Ester Blueburger is a 13 year old Jewish girl who is the victim of bullying whilst attending her all girls, posh, private school.

The rebellious Sunny who attended a nearby public school befriends Esther and shows her life outside her Jewish culture. Consequently, Esther changes her whole outlook on life in order to feel as if she

belongs. Blueburger falls into the trap of being easily pressured by Sunny's group members.

Eventually Esther begins to realise that her friendship between Sunny and herself is falling apart, as she starts to lose her morality and uniqueness by turning into someone that she wasn't. After Sunny's mum passes away, Esther realises she doesn't have to change to fit in as she begins to appreciate her own uniqueness.

Our rating for this film is 3 out of 5 stars.

Thank-you to Mr Liberatore for supervising us on this excursion.

Giovanna Italiano, Greg Loomes, Jade Kilicoglu, Matt Fletcher, Melanie Hannigan, Melissa Petrovska and Rawaa Fareed.

Yr 11 CAFS Students

	1 Very Poor	2	3 Aver age	4	5 Very good
CAFS Relevance		X			
Personal Relevance	X				
Visual Appeal			X		
Acting			X		
Character Development				X	



Year 12 2008 Childcare Day

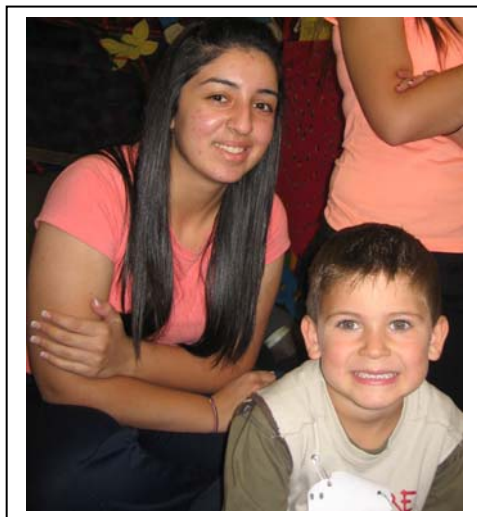
Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood class were involved in a childcare day on Monday 7th April. The class of 9 was divided into 2 groups and each conducted two different activities.

There were eight children and everyone participated as one big family in all the activities. Cooking, singing, reading, painting and dancing, were among the activities the kids could take part in.

Everyone enjoyed the day and the children left with a personalised box that included their work, a party bag filled with lollies and their paintings, which decorated the classroom.

A big thank you, to Miss. Hoang for organising such an educational, fun and memorable experience.

Alina Mansoor and Helen Mirzai



Some further comments from students who participated on the day:

On the 7th April, Prairiewood High School held a childcare day. There were 9 students and 8 children divided into 3 groups. My group was Group Z which had myself, Ally and Jasmine. Our group cooked, making jelly and smile faces. They turned out really good and the children had red jelly and biscuits, with smile faces on them. We played music and did the Chicken Dance, Twister and the Hokey Pokey. We all had lots of fun and the children were able to dance until they dropped.

It was a fun day, with lots of art & craft and a show and even with some children having difficulty in listening to us, we all had a great time.

Rachel Cipolat Year 11

On the 7th April, we had a childcare day at the school and had 8 children placed in our care for the day. We were divided up into groups and our group was group B, with Alina, Ashoriena and Natasha. We had 2 activities, the show (Old Macdonald's Farm) and a reading activity. The reading activity involved reading a book and sticking pictures from the book onto the board.

We had fun and all played together, but we were so tired by the end of the day, it's one we won't forget soon.

Ashoriena Salman

Hawkesbury Show

So my dream about the Hawkesbury Show was wrong after all. I told Mrs Hernandez only weeks earlier about my dream, that we only had won 2 third prize ribbons and how terrible I had felt that she had driven all that way to enter the student's work. She commented on how competitive it was at the Hawkesbury Show and it was going to be a challenge. Well in fact my dream was wrong. We won 2 first prizes in the cooking section and one highly commended prize.

Congratulations to:

1st Prize Anzac Biscuits - Albert Aldahawi & Dejan Andonovski (Year 10)

1st Prize Scones - Paul Maciel & Mary Mansour (Year 8)

Highly Commended Scones – Robbie Mier & Melissa Mostarac (Year 8)

Many thanks to Mrs Hernandez for making the 50 minute drive out to the Hawkesbury Showgrounds. Thanks to Lisa Cassar (past student) for picking up the winning ribbons. Thanks to all the students who participated in the cooking competition and finally many thanks to the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association for offering this opportunity to the school and students.

Ms Stamenkovic

Try making our prize winning Anzac Biscuit Recipe:

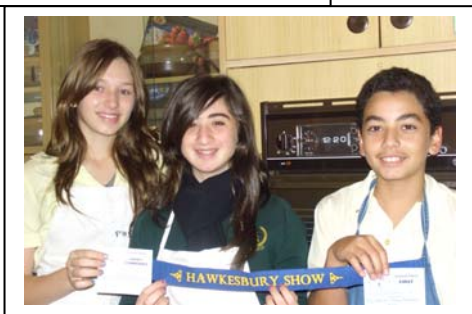
Ingredients:

1 cup rolled oats
1 cup plain flour
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup coconut
125g butter
2 tablespoons golden syrup
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 tablespoon boiling water

Method:

1. Combine oats, sifted flour, sugar and coconut.
2. Combine butter and golden syrup, stir over gentle heat until melted.

3. Mix soda with boiling water, add to melted butter mixture, stir into dry ingredients.
4. Take tablespoons of mixture and place on lightly greased oven trays; allow room for spreading.
5. Cook in slow oven (150°C or 300°F) for 20 minutes.
6. Loosen while still warm, then cool on trays. Makes about 35 biscuits.



Extra-Curricular

One More Star

Congratulations to Clare Melville of Year 10 for becoming a finalist in the Year 10-12 Anti-Discrimination Board Writing Competition.

The National Law Week Competition promoted saying NO to discrimination. Clare was presented with her award at Parliament House in Sydney by the Attorney General Mr John Hatzistergos.

What a fine achievement!

My First Term of High School

Written by D'Shaun Keenan

My first term of high school was awesome but questioning? The teachers were being nice to us but not for long. They would give us warnings if we did something wrong. While we were having fun we weren't really sure if we were actually doing the right thing? It was pretty funny! My favourite subject has to be sport and P.E. They are what we call 'Bludging Subjects!'. Well, they really aren't to me because you

are doing fitness whilst having fun! My most worst and hated subject is Maths! It's so boring and hard. But some exercises are fun.

Recess and lunch were probably the only times in school hours that we could take all that pressure away and have some fun. Because in class, we always panic on how good our efforts are. But although we are really scared of how we are doing, the teachers are really generous to us and give us a lot of help! So that made us feel a little bit more welcome.

We are the little fish in the big sea. We all looked really tiny compared to all of the school. They all looked at us as the 'New Kids'. The Canteen ladies helped us with what's at the canteen. We didn't even know where to line up! But we asked people around the school and they helped us. As we got used to the school and how it runs, we sort of liked it. It was just those little rumours that put some people down but they knew they were just jokes. School is much better because of the friends you have and the new friends that you make. It's just the homework most of us don't like!

Sport

Prairiewood High Cross Country Carnival 2008

Prairiewood High's Cross Country carnival turned out to be a fantastic day, with more than 620 students who attended the carnival at Fairfield Showground. It was held on the 7th May, 2008, and we couldn't have asked for more perfect weather.

Everyone arrived around 9am and chose a spot to sit on the field and chat with their friends. With music played over the loud speakers and the sausage sizzle run by the year 12 students, it was more like a picnic day than anything, including other fun activities such as skipping, cricket, soccer, and a few other ball games. Many students and teachers joined in on these activities throughout the day while others were warming up for their race.

For the few hundred students who competed in the cross country race, there was tough competition and some outstanding results. All competitors showed great sportsmanship and congratulated each other for their efforts. The Age Champions for 2008 are:

Boys

- 12 years - Daniel Garzaniti
- 13 years – Steven Tasevski
- 14 years – Luke De Battista
- 15 years – Jonathon Keppie
- 16 years – Ramsin Orahim
- 17 years – Shaun Williams

Girls

12 years – Skye Aquilina
13 years – Aimee Kovacic
14 years – Jana Zabakly
15 years – Rawin Keo
16 years - Megan O'Brien
17 years - Louise Simonetta

Every student who participated in the race gained a point for their house. Fraser finished in 4th place on 177 points, followed by Goolagong in 3rd place on 190 points, then Bradman in 2nd place on 214 points, and Hollows earned 1st place with an outstanding 249 points. A presentation was held at the end of the day to congratulate the age champions on their achievements.

The entire day turned out to be a huge success and the teachers were very pleased with the behaviour of all the students. Everyone showed a great amount of school spirit and proved that Prairiewood High is a fantastic school.

Taryn Henry
Sports Council

Special Ed's Sports Carnival Success

On Wednesday May 28th the Special Ed students participated in a Metropolitan Athletics Carnival which was held at Homebush.

For the 13th consecutive year the students won the Marching Competition. The theme was "Bring on Beijing" and the students waved Chinese Flags and streamers, wore red soccer shirts and were led by our very own "Geisha Girl", Eva Lu.



More than 27 schools participated and we achieved some outstanding results:

Vanine Niyibitanga 2nd 800m Open Girls
Darly Wei 1st 200m
1st 100m
1st Relay

John Madden 3rd 400m, 1st Relay

Michael Webster 2nd 100m, 1st Relay

Oscar Sarkes 2nd 100m, 1st Relay
Sarah Ginh 2nd 100m

We are still waiting for the results of the field events. The students and teachers all had a great day and represented Prairiewood High School in an exceptional manner.



Volleyball Teams To State Finals

Congratulations to both the open boys and girls volleyball teams who have qualified for the Final 16 of the NSW Schools Knockout Competition to be held at Homebush on the 2nd - 3rd of July during the final week of this term.

The boys have played exceptionally well to finish second in the Sydney South West Region losing only to James Meehan who had a number of state and regional representatives. Congratulations to the Boys Volleyball team including: Trae Fonoia, Josh Loau, Siddoway Moe, FJ Mauala, Nathan Mauala, Leroy Muaulu, Fred Tahu, John Tanuvasa, David Sisifa, Nela Vusonicewa

The girls also played outstanding volleyball to win the Regional Championship for the first time in many years, defeating Eagle Vale High School in the final. The team included: Norise Tua'au (Captain), Grace Muaulu-Tamapua (Vice-Captain), Medina Cicak, Letila Korovou, Megan O'Brien, Rachel O'Brien, Amy Melville, Clare Melville, Gloria Tuifao and Janet Tuifao.

Congratulations to both teams and good luck in the state finals.

~ Mr Guthrie (Boys' Team Coach), Ms Pool (Girls' Coach)

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 ~ Mrs D. Smith, Ms T. Gandlgruber (Rlg)**
COUNSELLORS: Mrs D. Sequeira, Mr J. Taffa **TEACHER LIBRARIAN:** Mrs R. Richards
OFFICE MANAGER: Mrs B. Beileiter (Rlg)

HEAD TEACHERS

English ~ Mrs S. Davis, **Mathematics ~ Mrs M. Cashel** **Science ~ Mr S. Perks**
Administration /Languages ~ Mr M. Gianni (Rlg); Ms R. Kresevic (Rlg), **History ~ Mrs F. Humphreys,**
Social Sciences ~ Mr B. Jackson **Performing and Creative Arts ~ Mr J. Smiley (Rlg),**
PD/Health/PE ~ Mr R. Benetel, **Industrial Arts ~ Mr D. Rose,** **Home Economics ~ Mrs L. Marlow (Rlg)**
Careers~ Mrs P Evans...Student Welfare ~ Mr J. Walster

YEAR ADVISERS

Year 7 ~ Mr N. Liberatore, Mrs K. Hernandez (Asst) Year 8 ~ Ms L. Ruzic, Mrs J. Magee (Asst)
Year 9 ~ Ms M. Rodic, Mr M. Gianni (Asst) Year 10 ~ Ms A. Pool, Ms R. Kresevic (Asst)
Year 11 ~ Miss K. Bond, Mr W. Guthrie (Asst) Year 12 ~ Mrs S. Young, Mrs K. Oakley (Asst)