

Student Action Group Fundraising

On Wednesday, 1 April the Student Action Group ran a scrumptious cake stall in order to raise funds for future incentive excursions. The stall went smoothly and lines ran around the corner as students patiently waited to get their hands on something sweet. At the end of the day, the event was able to raise money towards the end of year incentive excursion. The Student Action Group demonstrated their maturity and initiative, as they wanted to raise funds themselves.

The Student Action Group would like to issue a huge thank you to all parents, staff, and students who donated baked goodies, helped man the stall or called in to purchase a treat. Thank you also to Mrs Gauci and her organisational skills that helped make the event a huge success.

The Student Action Group is now busily organising the Rewards Day for the end of this term. Stay tuned for further information on this exciting event.



THE FAST CENTRE

The FAST centre is open for all Willyama students on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.00pm and provides a great opportunity for students who may be having difficulty with assessment tasks or class work to receive extra assistance and tuition in any subject in a relaxed and resourceful environment.



WILLYAMA WHISPERS

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Term 2 Week 3

6 May 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has been a fantastic start to the term with a number of great things happening at Willyama High School.

First of all, congratulations to the wonderful team of students who travelled to Cobar and won the Outback Science and Engineering Challenge last week. This is a wonderful achievement and what continues to impress us most of all is the positive feedback about how the team conducted themselves and competed in the right spirit of the competition. We wish them well as they compete in the State final in Newcastle later next term. A big thank you to Miss Kelly, Mr Harris and Mr Merrick for organising and accompanying the students on this trip. More details inside.

I am also very pleased to advise new shade sails have been installed in the courtyard as a result of a three way partnership between the school, our SRC and our P&C who contributed \$5000 each to fund this project. This is a classic example of students, parents and the whole school community working together to make our school a better place for everyone.

Congratulations to Lauren Fisher who has been elected in the Leadership Group/Student Representative team for Aurora College (virtual selective high school). A wonderful achievement.

It is with much sadness that I advise the school community of the recent passing of former PDHPE teacher Marie DeBlasio last Friday night. Our thoughts are with Marie's family and friends at this sad time.

Important upcoming dates:

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|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 12-14 May | NAPLAN tests (years 7 & 9) |
| 15 May | School cross country |
| 18-22 May | Year 11 half-yearly examinations |

Grant Shepherd
Principal

Nail Biting Finale results in Willyama being named Regional Champions

On Monday 27–28 April the Willyama High School Science and Engineering team with Miss Kelly and Mr Harris began the long journey to Cobar to participate in the 15th annual Newcastle University Outback Science and Engineering Challenge.

They faced a variety of challenges, including building bridges, catapults, earthquake proof towers, energy efficient electric circuits, hovercrafts, a bionic hand and a Mars Rover. After an exhausting day and a nail biting finale we were announced regional champions and have been invited to participate in the state finals in Newcastle in August.

We would like to thank Mrs Sulicich and Mr Merrick for coming with us and Peter our Buses-R-Us driver who looked after us so well. Thank you also to Gary Woodman, Cobar High School and the Cobar Sports and Recreation Centre for their amazing hospitality and the organisers and volunteers from Newcastle University for making this such an enjoyable experience.



Joshua D'Ettorre, Bailey Shepherd & Zac Murray



Mercedes Tonkin, Morgan Papas & Sophie Morrison



Caitlyn Bloomfield, Katie-Lee Crowe & Jacob Crawford



Adam Fell, Blade Crowe & Mason Ravlich

Mulberry Vale – ACES Junior Girls Camp

On Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March 2015 Year 7 students, Courtney Bessell-Grose, Ashli Fryer, Ella Gray, Kerry Johnson, Bianca Johnston, Teresa King, Makayla Perry, Charisma Sforcina, Deanna Suckling and Year 8 students, Jasmin Langdon, Latoya Langdon and Paige Pigdon participated in an overnight Mulberry Vale cultural experience. Accompanied by Miss Kelly and Julie Philp from District Office the girls explored the Mulberry Vale area. They created spectacular dance costumes and practiced their modelling skills.



On Monday 30 March, Mrs Clark, Miss Henderson and Miss Sullivan visited and were entertained by a Polynesian song and dance show that Miss Kelly had taught the girls.



On Tuesday 31 the girls were visited by Miss Fiona Kelly and her daughter Marli who performed New Zealand, Hawaiian, Tongan and Aboriginal dances and led the girls in a very energetic and enjoyable dance workshop. We greatly appreciate Marli's time and effort in teaching the girls these new skills.

We would like to thank Tex from Thrifty Buses for getting us there and Pam and John from Mulberry Vale for their warm hospitality. A particular thank you must go to Brad and Amanda Johnson for the delicious catering and to Julie Philp for making this experience possible.





PRC

Congratulations to the Yr7 students for taking part in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Our students will join 275,000 Primary to Year 9 students across NSW to read for pleasure and to experience some quality literature. The popularity of this valuable program is testament to the importance placed by

students and parents on reading. Please encourage Yr7 students on their reading journey.

E- Books and E- Audio Books in the Library

The Library takes great pride in providing students with quality engaging books. This year we have continued our quality service and along with hard copy books we have included e-books and e-audio books in the collection. The benefits of reading a hard copy book, e book or listening to an audio book are many. Quoting Stanford University researchers (2015) "reading gives your brain a workout in multiple complex cognitive functions, while pleasure reading increases blood flow to different areas of the brain". Researchers also found that reluctant readers can be trained to become better readers. Training to read actually changes the brain. In a six-month daily reading program scientists discovered that "the volume of white matter in the language area of the brain actually increased". Further, they showed that brain structure can be improved with this training, making it more important than ever to adopt a healthy love of reading. The latest study on the use of audio books has found that " audio books develop reading, comprehension and listening skills" and that "not only are these skills transferable to subject areas but also improve test scores, develop social skills and written performance.

I hope the new technologies will engage our students and that their reading and listening experience is enjoyable.

Nikki Adams

Teacher Librarian



Make the First Move

If the kids don't want to communicate with you then you need to make the first move. -Graham Smith

- ♦ When asked about their day kids often give one word answers. It's up to us, as parents, to ask again and again in lots of different ways.
- ♦ Sometimes children don't want to talk right after school, just like adults need down time after work. Try talking to your child first thing in the morning, or right before bed.

Thoughts?



Support Unit - Discreet Hospitality TAFE

Every Friday the senior students in the Support Unit have been participating in discreet hospitality at TAFE. Lee Cecchin (chef) has been teaching the students all the skills needed to help them cook independently. All students are really enjoying the course and are learning many new skills, that will assist them in later life.



Year 8 Visual Arts Term 1 Mixed Media Masks.

As an introduction to the Year 8 Visual Arts course, students in Year 8.3 and 8.4 created mixed media masks, firstly as a 2D work on paper and then as a low relief work. They used a variety of media in the development of their work including coloured papers, tissue, tiles, string, sticks and fabric with an emphasis on earth colours.

Students then created a relief mask exploring shape, patterns integrating mixed media into the piece. The results were terrific.

The top row of masks pictured below are selected photographs of the students 2D work and their relief sculptures are underneath.

