

Tuesday 5 November 2019

Celebrating Dedicated Teachers at Pittwater High

Jane Ferris: Principal's Report

World Teachers' Day on Friday 25 October, gave us an opportunity to celebrate quality teaching and inspirational teachers in our schools. Sadly. too often members of the public can't get past the holidays or seemingly short working day of teachers, failing to recognise the incredible hard work and dedication that also goes on beyond the school day.

As Principal I have great confidence in the calibre of our teachers at Pittwater High. I am constantly amazed how much additional work they do in the school in the care of our students. For example this year teachers have voluntarily worked in Collaborative Teacher Efficacy teams with the firm believe that they can and do make a huge difference to young peoples' learning and wellbeing outcomes.

Teachers at Pittwater High have important skills beyond their subject content: intellectual curiosity, strong communication, moral purpose, empathy, humour, collegiality, selflessness and an ability to really connect to young adults. And this with up to 30 students with all their complexities in the one room at a time!



We really appreciate the parents and students who took the time to thank individual teachers or the whole staff generally. Here are a few extracts from letters of thanks:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my overwhelming gratitude for you and your whole staff. Every single teacher with whom I have had dealings regarding either one of my children, displays wholehearted care and concern for the individual kids in their class, and willingness to go so far beyond whatever the base minimum of the job may be. Teachers are underpaid and under-valued. People go on and on about the easy lifestyle, the long holidays, the supposedly short working days. People have NO IDEA of the depth and breadth of effort that teachers give their students, the extra-curricular support, the out-of-hours activities, and the ever-present care and concern. Your staff of teachers is far and away the most magnificent cohort of wonderful, caring individuals. I want you to know how very much we deeply value and appreciate you all."

"My daughter's attitude towards school, and more importantly her confidence, has changed significantly this year thanks to you. She feels that she is not lost in the school environment and that she is capable of tackling challenges."

"I'd like to express my immense gratitude towards this teacher. Her dedication, caring, kindness and constant guidance and support for her students is unparalleled."

"I very much appreciate the attention and advice shown to my son and to the advice provided to me at the parent/teacher meetings. There is pride in the school which can only be achieved by collaboration with teachers, students and parents. Thank you."

And a special thank you to those who sent gifts of flowers, chocolates and ice creams! They were greatly appreciated.

Survive and thrive during your HSC year!

Workshops for Year 12

Tuesday and Wednesday Week 4

As part of Macquarie University's multi award winning PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) program, two undergraduate psychology students will be delivering workshops to Year 12 to discuss the **school-based as well as personal skills** which can help students to not only survive but to thrive whilst working towards their Higher School Certificate.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

Day & time	Class groups		Location
Tuesday 5 th November Period 2 (10:02- 10:54am)	12PDHPE5 (Gundry)	+ Extras*	Learning Centre (Library) Smartboard Area
	12VHKO5 (Lagois)	12AAST5 (Silk)	Common Learning Space (upstairs A Block)
	12NSHSD (Fabbro)	+ Extras*	
Wednesday 6 th November Period 4 (1:15-2:15pm)	12VCO5 (Larter)	+ Extras*	Learning Centre (Library) Smartboard Area
	12MH5 (Coyte)	+ Extras*	Common Learning Space (upstairs A Block)
Wednesday 6 th November Period 5 (2:20-3:20pm)	12FB5 (Cosentino) 12LS5 (Horrell)		Learning Centre (Library) Smartboard Area
	12GE5 (Mumford) 12BI5 (Winter)		Common Learning Space (upstairs A Block)

* = students who have a free period at this time are expected to attend the workshops. Mr Fairley will advise you in person which specific workshop to attend. Rolls will be marked during the workshops.

We hope Year 12 get plenty out of these workshops to help them succeed!

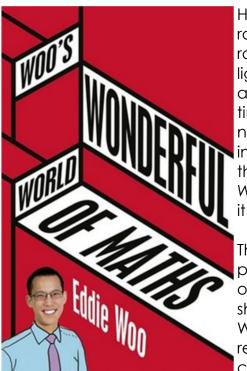
If there are any questions or concerns, please see the Head Teacher Wellbeing Mr Fairley

CABRANANGA UPDATE

Last term was very busy for Cabrananga. The students in E3 learnt about water in HSIE, and classification in Science, where we also successfully hatched a chicken. During our Community Access sessions the students visited Bunnings Belrose, where they made bird feeders. Each of these learning areas were bought together in our overarching sustainability focus. We created garden beds and filled them with healthy food choices. Our gardening is an ongoing project supported by Woolworths Discovery Garden. This term we are fortunate to have Bunnings Belrose come to Cabrananga to help the students build a further garden bed and construct of a small worm farm.



WOO'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF MATHS BY EDDIE WOO



Written by Gina Armstead

Have you ever wondered why so many things in nature are rather predictable yet you would think they should be random, such as the symmetry of a sunflower, the pattern lightning makes when it strikes or why marbles falling through a board into different lanes will form a similar pattern each time? Or perhaps you have wondered how your card number is kept private when you have used it on the internet? Or even how a musical note is made and how they can be used to create harmonies? Eddie Woo, of *Wootube* fame, has wondered all this and more and shares it in his book 'Woo's Wonderful World of Maths'.

The study of mathematics, as Woo explains, is the study of patterns found in nature. Woo brings together his reflections on the world around him with the magic of mathematics, to show that mathematics surrounds us in everything we do. Woo's ability to tell a story makes the book a stimulating read to inspire your own reflections on how mathematics can be seen and used each day of your life.



OPENING OF THE SENIOR KITCHEN

Over the past 18 months the Year 12 Construction Class of 2019, with the aid of Mr Robinson, has designed and constructed an outdoor facility for senior use. From the ground up, students excavated the site and laid the formwork for a raft edge concrete slab. They then built timber framing, a skillion roof and handrails. A bench was constructed and the project was lined internally with villaboard and externally with weatherboard cladding. A stainless steel benchtop and sink was installed by the students and then the splashback tiled. The students also constructed a large Merbau table for the centre of the room.

Thanks to the P & C, the facility was fitted with some state of the art commercial appliances.

The class of 2019 handed over the project to the school on their last day of Year 12 with a grand opening ceremony.

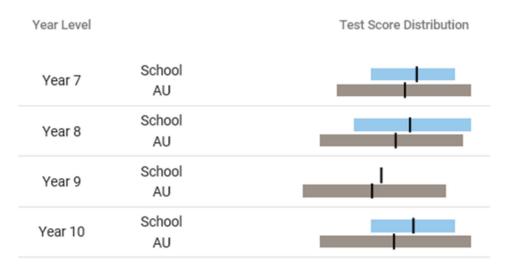
Mr Robinson

ICAS MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

This year was a little different ... we went **digital** !

Rather than the traditional pencil and paper style of test, the 2019 **ICAS** (International **C**ompetitions and **A**ssessments for **S**chools, run by UNSW), went headlong into the digital age, with each student bringing along their own devices to complete the test. I'm not sure who felt more stressed – the competitors or their host. Once the students had all logged in successfully and settled into some serious problem solving, I was able to relax and enjoy the view. And what a view ! ... a select group of mathematicians focussed intently on their screens, the silence broken only by the faint sound of tapping keys (and, of course, the barely audible whirr of the cogs in their heads).

In terms of results, I am happy to report that of the four junior years, we rated higher than the Australian mean scores across **every** year group. (The senior years were represented by too few students to give any meaningful results.) For those visual learners, I have included a graph.



This year just under 1 000 000 students entered the competition and 5 of our students received Distinction awards (top 11% of participants), a tremendous effort.

Those students are: F

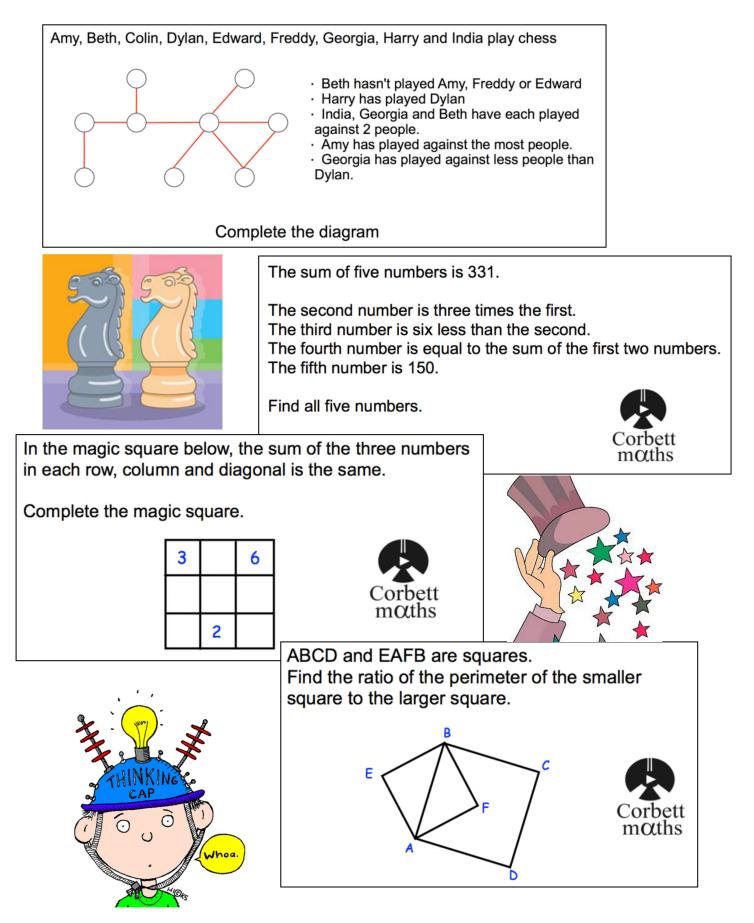
Finlay Dean (Year 7) Tobias Urban & Linus Wang (Year 8) Benjamin Harris (Year 9) Charlotte Stead (Year 10)

Pittwater H. S. kicks more goals! Congratulations to all students who took part.

Nigel Stoyef



CAN YOU SOLVE THESE CORBETT CONUNDRUMS?



View the solutions at https://corbettmaths.com/2017/04/18/conundrum-answers/ by clicking on the links for the following dates: 6th August, 27th July, 8th June, 9th May.

If you liked these puzzles you can find more at <u>https://corbettmaths.com/more/corbetts-</u> <u>conundrums/</u>

CALCULATOR TRICKS

Pocket and desk calculators are not only useful, they also can be used to surprise and entertain yourself and your friends. Here are some calculator amusements:

- 1. Select <u>any</u> number key other than 0 and press it 3 times. Divide the number on display by 3, then divide the result by the number on the key you first punched. The result will always be 37!
- 2. Put on display any digit from 1 through to 8 and divide by 9. The answer will repeat your original number. Clear the display and enter a number between 10 and 98. Divide by 99. The calculator will again repeat the selected number. Now clear and enter a 3-digit number less than 999 and divide by 999. Guess what?
- 3. Punch in 987654312. Note that the numbers 1 and 2 are in the wrong order. Divide by 8 the answer will surprise you!
- 4. Plug in a 2-digit number like 30. Reverse the digits (i.e. 03) and add the new number to the one you picked. You get a **palindrome** a number that reads the same forward and backward. With some numbers, you need to reverse the sum and add again before you get the results. For example, 39+93 = 132, and then 132 + 231 = 363. You may need to repeat these steps (reversing and adding) many times before you get a Palindrome. Warning! Don't even try 89 with a calculator. The palindrome for 89 is 8,813, 200, 023, 188 WOW!



THE 3P'S IN MATHEMATICS



When studying Maths, you must have three key ingredients-I call them the 3P's in Mathematics, **Practice**, **Patience and Perseverance** - which are necessary to help you complete your Maths course successfully.

Like studying a language, Maths can only be mastered by continually **doing** problems and exercises. This means you need to keep up with your (homework) exercises and continue practising. In Maths, it's not so much about the answer (though that is of course important too), but about

the steps you take to reach that answer! The best way to study for a Maths exam is to complete as many practice questions as you can, and a good start is using the home-work problems. In many cases, you will see similar questions on your exam. *Practice* builds your confidence.

It always feels good when you see an easy problem and you know how to answer it. But the challenge comes in doing the harder questions - and these are the exercises which will probably show up on the exam! It's therefore important to keep a list of all the hard problems you find while doing (homework) exercises. Make sure that when it's time for the exam, you can tackle these completely (i.e. worked solutions with all the steps to the right answer) without looking at the answer sheet. **Practice and Patience** will see you through to the end.

Spend time to understand the concepts when you're studying. Sometimes, key concepts will not jump out at you, and often there are times when extra work and much effort are needed to clearly understand the concepts. Remember to focus on doing your (homework) exercises well, not rushing to finish first! *Perseverance* will pay off and you will grow to be a motivated student.

Take ownership of your knowledge. If there's something you don't quite understand, ask for help. There is nothing wrong with asking for extra guidance from your teacher, peers or looking at online videos and tutorials. Educators always love to see students interested in the subject as well as their own learning. They will always be willing to help.

Finally, remember to keep a balance between your study, social life and personal life as your number one priority, above everything else, is your health and well-being.

Good luck and best wishes in your upcoming exams!

Ms. Helen Yeoh Classroom Teacher, Maths



NEWPORT AND MONA VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT

Six of our amazing Year 9 students accompanied Mrs Juric (Year 7 Adviser 2020) and Mrs Griffin (Year 7 Assistant Adviser 2020) for a visit to both Newport and Mona Vale Primary schools, where the students assisted in running a fun science experiment and helped the Year 6 students handle our adult and baby chickens.

We also had the opportunity to run a question and answer forum, assisting them with their transition into High School. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Pittwater High School students to go back to where they came from and to also establish a working relationship with Year 6 and to build their leadership skills, ready for when they start the Peer Support Program next year.

Thank you again to Mrs Griffin, Thomas Shanahan, Sophia Pitcher, Amber Rabbits, Poppy Guy, Ethan Barnwell and Tiana Knezevic. You did such a wonderful job leading the primary students and it was great to see you all enjoying yourselves!

Mrs Juric



YEAR 8 AGRICULTURE



Year 8 Agriculture are currently working towards growing their very own vegetables out at the school's agriculture plots. They set up fencing, put down newspaper to prevent weeds from getting through, moved a lot of compost back and forth where needed, and have set up netting to prevent birds and other pests getting in.

They have been working in teams and both the students and I are super proud of their hard work! Look at all of these amazing vegetables!

Mrs Juric





YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO NORTH HEAD



On Monday 28 October, Year 8 Geography classes participated in an excursion to North Head. The purpose of this was to study the interconnections that different groups have had with the area over time, from Indigenous Australians, Quarantine Station Cemetery, and the Australian Military through to the North Head Sanctuary Foundation today.

Students were involved in a number of activities on the day. They learnt how Indigenous Australians used certain plants such as the bark from paperbark trees for band aids and nappies and leaves from the Sydney Wattle combined with water to make soap.

Students also were made aware of how the long-nosed bandicoot is endangered at North Head and had a lot of fun building bandicoot nests. As for the interconnections the military had with North Head, there is evidence of a gun emplacement from World War II and a walkway with information on the various battles Australia was involved in. Finally, students were able to see first-hand the natural regeneration of the area by the North Head Sanctuary Foundation. The excursion was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the 'physical environment' which geography encompasses.

Alison Mumford on behalf of the HSIE Faculty









YEAR 9 CAMP

Year 9 students recently attended camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber. The camp was a huge success with students developing and demonstrating their skills in teamwork, problem solving and stepping out of their comfort zones to take on individual and team challenges, including rock climbing, high ropes courses, survival challenges, giant swing and many more.







CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER

Monday 4 Nov Tuesday 5 Nov Wednesday 6 Nov Thursday 7 Nov Friday 8 Nov

Monday 11 Nov Tuesday 12 Nov Wednesday 13 Nov Thursday 14 Nov Friday 15 Nov

Monday 18 Nov Tuesday 19 Nov Wednesday 20 Nov Thursday 21 Nov Friday 22 Nov

Monday 25 Nov Tuesday 26 Nov Wednesday 27 Nov Thursday 28 Nov Friday 29 Nov Shauna Pettit, **REALLY NEED HELP** Alison Brown, Severine Delerue Leah Bartlett, **need help** Sabrina Gereaux, **need help** Jen Masters (AM), Caroline Thomas

REALLY NEED HELP REALLY NEED HELP Kerri Paul, REALLY NEED HELP

Suzanne Humphreys, Sarah Jones Meredith Julliard, Emma Haynes, Therese Creed

Kate Macgregor, Natty Dryden, Richard Touw Georgia Bramham, need help Linda Newman, Di Brian Peter & Margaret Woods Sandra Avedissian, Corrina Bouman

Richard Touw, Tanti Oetojo Sandy Cozens, need help Irina & Bindi Suzanne Humphreys Sharon Grainger, Sarah Attfield, Louise England

MUMS, DADS & Grandparents

The canteen really needs volunteer help. There are days where we struggle to get the food out in time and service time is hard on the students as there are not enough hands to serve. If anyone could spare a few hours anytime in the day it would most appreciated. We are trying to keep the prices down and this can only be done with volunteers.

Email is <u>phscanteen@gmail.com</u> or ring on 99796968.

We would like to encourage the students to order their lunch to reduce queue times. Check out the specials board for what is on each day.

We would also like to encourage the students to order the pasta or rice dishes and we will have them heated and ready to go. This will prevent the hold ups & delays at the microwaves. They can order at Lunch 1 for Lunch 2.

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

Flexischools is a great hit. Please make sure you have received an email to confirm your order as we have students coming for their lunch and their name is not on the list. ***As of Term 4 Flexischools will now close at 8.30am instead of 8am.*** We listen and a lot of students are placing their order right at 8am and are missing out.

The daily menu will be changing to the summer selection. Come to the canteen to see the daily specials.





BAYVIEW GOLF CLUB'S

TWILIGHT GOLF

2 PLAYERS PLUS CART ONLY \$79 4PM EVERY DAY

TO BOOK CALL (02) 9999 307