PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY 2013

From left: Mark Spencer, Mitchell Wilson, Principal, Peter Partridge, Taylah Carney, Connor O’Sullivan and Year 12 Adviser, Mark Whitten

Sportsperson of 2012, Samantha Moore

Tomaree High School’s Dux for 2012, Mitchell Wilson

Makayla Green and Indigo Parish-Wood

Year 8 Assembly speakers, Liam Kelly, Ellie Wagland and Kishya Sanderson

School captains for 2013 and Assembly Chairpersons - Michaela Wagland, Matthew Ferguson and Elizabeth Haynes

Tomaree High School
Forward Together
I am always heartened at the beginning of a school year. Students have the opportunity to recalibrate their goals and behaviors for the year. The Christmas holidays often work wonders and students grow up both physically and emotionally.

Each year brings its particular challenges, and following are listed some challenges for students:

**Period 1 - getting to school on time and adjusting to going straight into class for an 8.15am start each school day.** I have been speaking with students who are late to school asking them for reasons as to why they are late. Sleeping in is not a reason if it occurs more than once in the term. Students need to take responsibility and get themselves ready for school and to school on time. Students who are late more than once can be given a warning and may be required to attend a break detention if they are students who are regularly late. I request that parents and guardians give their child a written note explaining why their son/daughter was late to school. It is essential that students get to school on time so that they are able to complete all learning tasks for their pattern of study.

**Year 10 is the first year of the record of their HSC Student Record of Achievement (RoSA)**

All students will have a statement of every subject studied and the grades that were awarded commencing with their Year 10 accreditation. This record of students achievement continues with the completion of the preliminary and HSC courses. At HSC level, it is a valuable accreditation, accepted worldwide and is recognised by universities and employers alike as a valuable indicator of a student’s capacity to apply themselves and achieve educational outcomes. Please encourage your sons and daughters to make the most of all assessment tasks and to complete all units of work in order to maximize their RoSA grades.

**Tomaree Non-Progression.** Our policy states that students who have not met the educational outcomes may be required to repeat the year for all or part of the year. Currently, we have several students who are repeating Year 10 as they did not satisfy the requirements to progress to the Preliminary Course. Similarly, five students are undertaking individualized learning plans in order for them to complete nominated Year 9 educational outcomes before they move into Year 10. It is in the best interests of the students to attend school every day and to make a consistent effort for each unit of work and to submit all assessable tasks. Students who do this, progress onto the next year and set themselves up for their HSC.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the students of the HSC 2012 who were awarded trophies at last week’s HSC Presentation Assembly. The quality of student at Tomaree is best exemplified by Mitchell Wilson, Dux of 2012. I have included his speech below:

“Distinguished guests, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen. It is my honour to be standing here today, addressing the students of Tomaree High School on the trials and tribulations of the HSC. Let me first take this time to officially and sincerely thank the teachers and supporting staff of the school, whose commitment and perseverance in relation to my studies shine as a symbol of the professionalism of this great centre of education. In particular, I would like to thank Mark Wagland, oh captain my captain, as well as Renee and Rod Lyon, for nurturing me since Year 7 and materializing my HSC aspirations into a shining reality. I would also like to mention an often understated topic, which is the support of my parents and family to whom I owe my HSC success and mental and emotional stability during my final year. My mother’s ability to conjure up a double shot coffee at the shortest notice were unsurpassable, and for her love and support I am especially and truly thankful. Finally, I would like to thank our year advisor, Mark Whitton, for his ongoing support throughout the year.

To you capable Year 12 students, who can now squint and picture the end of your schooling road, I wish you all the best in the intense months to come. Your willpower, emotional wellbeing and ability to resist minutely facebook updates will be challenged as much as your time management and perfection of essays, research tasks and study notes. May you take comfort in the idea that with each assessment completion, you take one step closer to the next chapter of your life, whatever path you may choose.

The HSC is like an avalanche. As time passes, it gathers more and more snow until it completely consumes you and your life and you have to dig your own way out. Whether you dig with your hands, a toothpick, a shovel, or wait for it to melt away in the Summer, you and only you can determine the efficiency to which you escape its clutches and reach the top of the mountain. And I can say with clarity, that it’s an amazing view. With every extra draft and hour spent on revision, the mountain may grow taller and avalanche become harder to escape, but the view at the top becomes more magnificent with each effort made.

When I think back to when I was in your position, a whole year ago, a few emotions surface in my mind; typically fear, dread and anxiety, but also excitement and ambition. For me, the HSC was a chance to finally discover the bounds to not only my knowledge, but my determination, and mental and social endurance. Don’t laugh when I say this, but I took pride in knowing exactly how many hours I spent perfecting an essay or how many parties I made excuses not to attend, because I knew it was all a reflection of how great a shot I was willing to give this thing.

In saying that, as I’m sure every past Dux would reiterate, sacrifices are essential in the HSC, whether they be work, sport, hobbies or parties, but it is important to maintain a healthy balance between school and your various outlets so as not to run out of steam on the home stretch. When you’re desperately trying to absorb study notes in the later part of the year, you will be glad to have that favourite song or activity to release the stress and lack of motivation building up inside.

I could go on about the “do’s and don’ts” of the HSC, but I would rather update you on my life so as to help you visualize that light at the end of the tunnel. Yesterday I went skydiving. Tomorrow I pack my bags and the day after I leave Port Stephens for university, undertaking a degree of arts/law and beginning O-week at Kensington colleges UNSW. I also went to Bali for schoolies. Enough said there. It was the thought of these events that fuelled my efforts in my final year, and hopefully it will be similar, or maybe even completely different goals, which inspire you to hang in there and fulfill your HSC ambitions. Good luck Year 12, and as the American poet Robert Frost once said, “The best way out is always through”. Thank you. Mitchell Wilson Dux 2012

Jen Florey
Deputy Principal
Presentation Assembly 2013

Last Thursday marked a most important occasion for Tomaree High School - our first Formal Assembly of the new school year which highlighted the outstanding achievements and success of our students in 2012.

Paige Lagettie, (pictured right), opened the Assembly acknowledging the traditional owners of our land, before students from 7P led the school with both verses of the National Anthem. Later, Year 10 student, Amy Fredes, a talented musician, entertained us all with the ‘Four Chord Song’ - a delightful medley of some of the most popular songs of the past decade. Ellie Wagland, Kishya Sanderson and Liam Kelly of Year 8 gave a wonderful speech on the “ups and downs” of how they survived Year 7.

TEC Chaplain, Greg Smith, presented Makayla Green and Indigo Parrish-Wood with the Tomaree Education Expectations Award. They both received a certificate and a cheque for $250 provided by the Tomaree Christian Board of Education for doing an outstanding job upholding the school expectations - Respect, Responsibility and Striving for Excellence.

Real Futures assists student on the Tomaree Peninsula to successfully transition from school to work or study. The various programs equip students with the necessary employability skills, motivation and confidence to follow their dreams. Damien Crew was the recipient for Real futures Vocational Award for 2012. Damien’s enthusiasm on the job gained him an Apprenticeship in light vehicle Mechanics with local company Anthony Lloyd.

This Assembly also marked a continuing tradition at Tomaree High School with the awarding of trophies for outstanding achievement of students across a number of areas in our school. These trophies acknowledge and celebrate the highest achievement in the Creative and Performing Arts, Citizenship, Vocational Education, Sport and Higher School Certificate.

Ella Burchmore, a talented and creative Drama student, who achieved a fantastic result of 92 in last year’s Higher School Certificate, received the 2012 Creative Arts Award. Ella’s delightful and bubbly personality and dedicated approach to the arts make her an extremely worthy recipient.

Taylah Carney was awarded the School Citizenship of the Year award. Her enthusiasm in undertaking duties, willingness to volunteer and positive approach to schooling, has inspired her peers. Congratulations Taylah in gaining this prestigious award.

Mark Spencer was named the Vocational Student of the Year. He was a diligent student who worked consistently hard to receive a Band 6 in the HSC. Mark has been employed at Tomaree High School to help with our native tree nursery production.

Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year for 2012 was awarded to Samantha Moore. Samantha has represented the school in a wide variety of individual and team sports at Zone and Regional level.

A highlight of the Presentation Assembly was recognising those students who achieved outstanding result in the Higher School Certificate. DUX of the year was Mitchell Wilson who achieved the highest ATAR of 98.2. As well as receiving a certificate and trophy for his outstanding academic achievement, Mitchell was also presented with the Legacy Further Education Scholarship by Acting Chairman for Port Stephens Legacy Group, Mr Tony Mumford.

Also achieving outstanding results were Jarrad Courts, who was placed 2nd in the year at THS with an ATAR of 96.45 and Connor O’Sullivan, 3rd with 94.95.

Mitchell addressed the assembly (see Deputy Principal’s report pg 2) about future plans and his impressions of the HSC year. He spoke fondly of his dedicated teachers and his time at Tomaree High School, passing on some of his wisdom to the student body about the level of effort required and the sacrifices necessary to ensure success in the Higher School Certificate.

Special thanks must go out to our dedicated team of students who run the Formal assemblies. From the set up of the MPC, sound crew, performers and our Chairpersons, Michaela Wagland, Elizabeth Haynes and Matthew Ferguson.

Anne Gorton
Presentation Assembly Co-ordinator
STEPHENS HOUSE SWIMMING CHAMPS FOR 2013

Stephens House fought back valiantly in the girls’ leg of the annual swimming carnival to again become Tomaree High School’s swimming champion House.

Day 1:
In what would be described as an ‘ordinary day’ weather wise, the boys from Tomaree High set the scene for closely fought house contest at this year’s carnival. Tomaree led with 305 points from Stephens – 224 points; then came Nelson on 200 points with Yacaaba tailing the field with a very meagre 58 points.

While the boys enjoyed the many “around pool” activities of volleyball, cricket and touch football, their participation in pool swimming events was disappointingly down on previous years.

After keenly contested races in all age divisions, the age champions were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 year</td>
<td>Jayden Naldo (Tomaree)</td>
<td>15 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 year</td>
<td>Rex Morgan (Tomaree)</td>
<td>16 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 year</td>
<td>Bailey Gauta (Stephens)</td>
<td>17 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The boys’ carnival finished with the ever popular Belly Flop contest – a big splash to end a great day.

Day 2:
The weather improved on Wednesday for the girls’ carnival resulting in an enjoyable sports and social day. Pool participation was down in all ages except the 13 year group - they created history with more participants that I can ever remember. Again, all races were keenly raced with many fine performances on the day.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 year</td>
<td>Terri Burns (Nelson)</td>
<td>15 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 year</td>
<td>Lara Holbert (Stephens)</td>
<td>16 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 year</td>
<td>Lily Hampstead (Stephens)</td>
<td>17 – 19 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the day, the girls’ point score was: Stephens 328 points; Nelson 288 points; Tomaree 233 points and Yacaaba 222 points.

Combined with the boys’ totals, the overall results were:

1st place - STEPHENS 552 points; 2nd place - TOMAREE 538 points; 3rd place - NELSON 488 points; 4th place - YACAABA 280 points.

(Port Stephens Zone Swimming Championships report page 5)
TOMAREE HS WINS PORT STEPHENS ZONE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many of Tomaree High School’s swimming carnival competitors returned to Tomaree Aquatic Centre on Monday, February 18 to represent their school at the Port Stephens Zone Championships.

Tomaree HS won the carnival scoring 250 points to lead home Francis Greenway HS and Dungog HS who finished equal second on 141 points.

There were many fine performances and our swimmers now await word from the Regional convenor to learn who will be chosen to compete at the Regional Championships at Tuncurry Pool on Tuesday, March 5.

The following students excelled and won events on the day – some winning many events:

- Lily Hampstead 1st in the 14 year 100m B/F; 100m F/S; 100m Br/S;
- Kyle Moriso 1st in the 15 year 100m B/F, 100m Br/S, 100m F/S, 50m F/S, 200m IM and 200m F/S;
- Georgia Woodley 1st in the 15 year 100m B/F, 100m F/S, 100m Br/S, 50m F/S, 200m F/S;
- Emma Cram 1st in the 16 year 100m Br/S, 100m F/S; 50m F/S;
- Bailey Gauta 1st in the 14 year 100m Br/S, 100m F/S;
- Alec Clark (14 year) and Samantha Moore (17-19 year) each won their respective 100m F/S;
- Grace McKeown (12 year), April McGillicuddy (14 year), Hayley Dufour (17 – 19 year) and Brandon Hortle (17 – 19 year) each won their respective 50m F/S races;
- Rex Morgan (13 year) won his 200m IM race.

Tomaree also won the following relays – Girls’ 14 year; Girls’ 15 year; Girls’ 17-19 year; Boys’ 17 – 19 year; Boys’ Medley and Girls’ Medley, as well as the 12 x 50m Knockout relay and the 12 – 19 year All Age Relay.

The following students were respective age champions:

- Girls’ - 14 year Lily Hampstead; 15 year Georgia Woodley; 17 – 19 year Hayley Dufour
- Boys’ - 13 year Rex Morgan; 14 year Bailey Gauta; 15 year Kyle Morison

When the finalists for events at the Regional Carnival are announced, the successful students will be issued with events and permission notes to attempt to make it through to State for 2013.

John Wade
Sport Coordinator

ATTENDANCE NEWS

This year the school has introduced some changes to roll call procedures.

Roll call now takes place in the first 5 minutes of Period 1 class. It is important that students arrive at school by 8.15am, the beginning of period 1 lesson, as they will miss lesson work if they are late to school. Late students are to report to the front office to sign in.

Students are still required to bring notes explaining their absence and should give the note to their period 1 teacher. It is helpful to the office staff if the student’s name is clearly written on the note so the information can be successfully transferred.

In future newsletters, tear off absentee notes will be provided for parents to complete and explain the reason for their child’s absence.

B. Foley
HT Administration

www.tomaree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Boom Gates and Parking
Firstly a big thank you to all the parents and carers who have complied with the parking rules on our site to make it a safe environment for students and staff. When we consider the number of people who enter and leave this site every day, there are very few issues and this is the result of the cooperation of the majority of parents who respect the need for strict traffic control.

Please remember:
7.30am – 9.30am – no parking on site for parents & visitors. Stop & drop zone operates in front of school where parents can stop for up to 3 mins, let children out and drive off. You cannot move more than 3 metres away from the car. Parents who have permission and appropriate authorisation vouchers may enter the special education area to drop off & pick up students. Parents who need to enter the school or office need to park in the pool car park.

9.30-1.30 – very limited parking along the front driveway of the school. Observe the council signs. Overflow parking in pool car park.

After 2.30pm – boom gates are opened and any spaces vacated by high school staff in the car park can be used by parents when collecting students. Please do not park in the TAFE area as classes often commence in the afternoon.

Parent Information Evening and P&C AGM
The Years 9 and 10 Parent Forum Information Evening will be held next Wednesday, March 6 at 7.30pm.

This will be preceded by the P&C’s Annual General Meeting which will start promptly at 7pm. A warm welcome is extended to all parents and caregivers to attend.

The purpose of the Information Evenings is for staff to expand on events happening throughout the year, provide information on the main subjects, give dates and details on assessment tasks and explain to parents how they can best support their child.

As a committee we felt these evenings would be an invaluable opportunity for parents to ask questions and feel involved in their child’s education.

By having the AGM on the same evening as the Parent Forum, the P&C committee will not need to have a second meeting in March.

We hope to see you at one of the meetings.

P&C/Parent Forum Team
Your Future Days

Each year, Tomaree High School presents a program designed to give students additional skills to cope with the challenges facing them. These days are called Your Future Days and were held on the alternate days during the recent swimming carnivals. The students are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and positive interactions with our guest presenters.

Year 7 & 8

Over the two days, the boys and girls of Year 7 and 8 rotated through three different sessions. One of the sessions was a fantastic workshop run by Mrs McCleer, who spoke about cyber safety. The students were able to see some great role play by Ms D’Arcy and Mrs McCleer. In the second session, the students participated in a series of “Minute to Win It” style challenges on the basketball courts. Tasks such as balancing a biscuit on your forehead and then getting it into your mouth without using your hands, brought plenty of laughs amongst the students and staff. Other activities included blowing ping pong balls between cups, sucking up skittles with straws and rolling 20c pieces in between fork tines. The third session was hosted by guest speaker, Nathan Hulls, from Victoria. Nathan is a motivational speaker and life coach. He writes for Girlfriend magazine and has appeared on the Today show. The students related to his many inspiring and engaging stories.

Scott O’Hara
Welfare
G’DAY USA TOUR 2012-2013

TOMAREE STUDENTS TAKE ON CALIFORNIA

On the 28th of December a group of seven Tomaree High students Rachel McPhilican, Nikita Wood, Arina Cilas, Stephanie Perry, Marina Dragovic, Abbey Moore and Lodi Pkot, landed at Sydney International airport with Mr Witt and Miss Dargan for a three week adventure to the west coast of the United States of America. We arrived at LAX on the 28th of December (again) after a quick stopover in New Zealand and were quickly whisked away to our hotel in Anaheim California.

During our week in LA we visited theme parks Knotts Berry Farm, home of the world’s largest wooden roller coaster ‘Ghost rider’, Universal Studios where we rode the transformers 3-D ride and took a behind the scenes studio back lot tour. We had a captivating night at the pirate’s dinner adventure where we cheered on our pirate to win. We visited the Hollywood walk of fame, toured Beverly Hills and spent time at Santa Monica pier and Venice beach. The highlight of LA week was the opportunity to celebrate New Year’s Eve at Disneyland. Standing in Main St Disneyland, we looked down to the spectacular fireworks castle to watch the fireworks light up at midnight.

LOS ANGELES TO SAN DIEGO

As the New Year arrived we departed LA for our next stop in San Diego. Only a stone’s throw away from Mexico (Literally) we stopped to our hearts content. Stoph bought shoes. Old town San Diego gave the students opportunity to learn about the history of Mexico and San Diego and pick up some unique souvenirs. We stopped for lunch at the corvette diner where burgers, fries and shakes were served under blue lights and 50’s rock n’ roll music playing.

The girls with Pinocchio at Disneyland on NYE

Nikita, Marina, Rachel and Lodi enjoying the views at San Francisco bar

Tour trivia

1. What was the highest daily temperature during our stay in San Francisco?
2. How many tourists visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame annually?
3. What type of bridge is the Golden Gate Bridge?
4. What is the distance from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco shore?
5. What 3 colours dominate the flag of Mexico?
6. The cheesecake factory is a restaurant and cheesecake franchise in California. What current TV show features the cheesecake factory?
San Diego to San Francisco
Granada High School

The next morning we packed our bags and headed for a walk along Pacific Beach, the girls dipped their toes in the other side of the Pacific and waved back to the bay. We headed off to the airport to hop on our next flight to host-Ing in San Francisco.

Upon arrival at Granada high school we were introduced to our host families where we spent the weekend visiting a variety of attractions in the bay area and spent time getting to know our new families. Some students were taken to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park to visit the snow over the weekend.

The Granada High School Matadors hosted us for 10 days. Generously welcoming us into their school.

The school had many clubs including:
- Sports (football, soccer, wrestling, golf, tennis – the list goes on)
- Cheerleading
- Band/orchestra
- Drumline
- Interact (social committee)
- Newspaper/journalism

G'DAY USA
2014-15

Are you interested in coming on the next G’DAY USA trip to run in the 2014-2015 school holidays??

Some tips:
- You must be at least 14 by the time we travel.
- Talk to students who have been on the trip.
- Start saving!!! If you do not have a part-time job, start on your resume now. A deposit of approximately $500 will be due this semester.
- Be nice to your parents.
- Be nice to your teachers.
- Try your hardest in all aspects of school.
- Listen to the daily notices for an upcoming information night.
- Talk to Mr. Witt or Miss Bergan for more information.

Throughout the San Francisco stay we toured Alcatraz, walked the Golden Gate Bridge, visited the famous Pier 39 and rode the cable cars. We shopped again at the new seaport outlet.

Steph bought shoes. Another great adventure was had when we hopped on the coach to visit the old sardine canning town of Monterey. Sea otters, penguins and other ocean critters were on display at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Mr. Witt was ecstatic at the opportunity to visit the world famous Pebble Beach golf course.

Host families before we departed San Francisco for our last connecting flight to Auckland and on to Sydney.

G’DAY USA provides a unique and valuable experience for our students. A wonderful trip was had by all. —Mica Bergan
Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures is a joint research project between Hunter New England Population Health and The University of Newcastle. We are working with a selection of schools to examine whether building resilience in adolescents leads to a reduction in smoking and alcohol consumption.

At Tomaree High School, staff have been working with School Project Officer, Catherine Leane, to enhance the resilience of students both in and out of the classroom and this will continue in 2013.

One of the factors of resilience is the ability to have high expectations and goals and use these aspirations to plan and focus on the future. The start of a new school year brings an opportunity to reflect on past challenges and successes and set new goals for the coming year. In setting new goals it is important to be realistic and establish goals that are achievable. It is also important to be specific and have goals that are measureable and definite. A goal such as “I’d like to achieve at least 60% on each English assessment this year” is more specific than “I’d like to get better in English”. Being specific makes it easier to work out the smaller steps that need to be taken to achieve the goal.

Technology can be a handy tool in tracking goal progress. There are numerous handy apps designed to assist with setting, tracking and achieving goals. Some of these include Way Of Life, which uses a colour-coded system for tracking multiple goals, and 43 Goals, a social goal-making site that also connects to Facebook.

Whatever your goals may be this year, make them realistic, achievable and specific and work out how you will track your progress. And remember to celebrate your achievements along the way as well as at the end. These are the positive experiences and skills that help to build meaning, maintain motivation and develop greater resilience. Good luck!

Catherine Leane
School Project Officer

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILDS SCHOOLING?
Youyoong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is the place to make that difference.
AECG is an Aboriginal community organisation that works with schools & community to better the outcomes for Aboriginal Education.
If you would like to have a say in your child’s education come along to our meetings, or if you just want to learn more about what we do please contact Rachel on 0431 580 086.
What’s happening in CAPA….?

Welcome back to a busy 2013. Term One is here and all CAPA staff and students are busy, busy, and busy.

This Term, CAPA students have been most fortunate to take part in a variety of outstanding learning opportunities and experiences, in the form of three major excursions. These excursions have been arranged by Visual Arts, Music and Drama teachers and give the students opportunities to see and experience exemplar examples of HSC works in all disciplines as well as performances and exhibitions that they may otherwise not experience.

On February 4, 30 students accompanied by Mrs Fletcher (nee Jones) travelled to Sydney to be part of the audience of “ONSTAGE”. The excursion was a great success and students thoroughly enjoyed the performances. The experience has been an excellent inspiration for Year 12 Drama as they begin work on their own HSC performance pieces.

Visual Arts students travelled to the Art Gallery of NSW in Sydney with Mrs Knaggs and Mrs Gorton on Wednesday, February 20. It was a jam-packed day that started with a 9am tour of the Francis Bacon Exhibition followed by a study morning and culminating in a special early viewing of Art Express. This was of particular significance as this year, Rhiannon Laman’s (Year 12 2012) HSC Body of Work, is on display at the AGNSW’s Art express exhibition. This is a great honour and she is to be congratulated on this excellent achievement.

“ENCORE” is a showcase of outstanding pieces from the Music HSC of 2012. Students travelled with Mrs Thurlow and Mrs Bartley to be part of the audience, another fabulous experience for those studying Music.

Our Concert Band meetings will resume next week (Week 6) with practice every Friday during Break 1 in Music Room 2. This year, Mrs Bartley and Mrs Thurlow will be working together to make our band even stronger. New members are most welcome.

STAR STRUCK preparations are already underway. Drama students have been working with Mrs Fletcher preparing for the audition. Dance students have been frantically learning the Finale and rehearsing at lunch time with Mrs Knaggs in preparation for the dance audition. Our audition DVD has to be sent off to the Star Struck office shortly. Congratulations to Mrs Fletcher, who is 2013’s Star Struck Drama Director. Star Struck will be held at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre on June 14 and 15.

“First Class 2012”, Lake Macquarie Art Gallery. Congratulations Jessica Duggan, whose Year 12 HSC Body of Work was not only nominated for Art Express, but was selected to be exhibited in this prestigious exhibition held later this year at Lake Macquarie Art Gallery.
At the end of the 2012 school year, a group of dedicated students did a stirling job working on the Memorial Garden located outside the Administration building. Our group of hardworking gardeners spent an afternoon pruning and weeding in preparation for some new plants to go into the garden in the last few days of term. It was satisfying to give the garden a bit of a facelift and thanks go to our General Assistant, Al Beedon, for installing an automatic timer on the sprinkler system allowing our plants to survive the extreme heat over the Summer break.

Bobbi Law (pictured) competed in the Wandiyali Atsi indigenous classic on February 13 as part of Surfset at Merewether Beach.

Bobbi surfed exceptionally well in messy conditions to come 3rd in the first heat and was eventually ranked an impressive 4th overall for the day.

Congratulations to Bobbi on an outstanding effort for her first individual competition. We look forward to seeing her compete in more individual competitions in the future.

Jodie Laloata

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Jodie Laloata

Teachers, Mrs Gorton and Miss Lane with our hardworking student gardeners

TOMAREE EDUCATION CENTRE
SCHOOL COMMUNITY WELCOME TO FAMILIES BBQ

A warm welcome is extended to all our new families at Tomaree High School and Tomaree Public School to come along to a barbeque **THIS SUNDAY**, March 3, 12.30 - 2.30pm.

All food and drinks will be provided for the barbeque which will be held in the primary school grounds. It will be a great time to meet new people and some of our School Community members.

Please RSVP to Debra Mould (DTM) or Debbie Hersant (DSTA) on 4981 1444. Hope to see you there!
Science News

The Stage 5 Project for all Year 10 students has begun.

A project booklet has been provided to each student. The booklet provides a template for completion of the project and sets out the schedule for submissions and guidelines for the assessment of each stage. While several students have already chosen their topic, done some research, developed a plan and submitted their booklets for the stage one marking, others are yet to meet the first deadline and have missed out on the stage one marks. These students will be reminded of their commitment and due dates via a formal letter. Any student who is having difficulty with their project should discuss it with their Science teacher.

Homework grids have been developed for all Science topics in Years 7-10. The homework grids provide students with a choice of homework tasks which are worth 4, 6 or 10 marks. Since the marks are allocated to the tasks depending on the expected level of work required to complete them, the marks are also a guide to the amount of effort required for the tasks. Students are expected to complete and submit tasks worth a total of 20 marks for each topic covered in the course. Some homework tasks that have been submitted for the first topics have been done to a fantastic standard. While the grids are often provided to the students as a hard copy, parents and students can view or download copies of the homework grids from the School’s Moodle site. This site is accessible from the Tomaree HS web site or by logging onto Moodle using the student’s login; (search for Tomaree high school Moodle on the internet or type www.tomaree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au directly into the web browser and click on the Moodle tab in the blue bar near the top of the page).

Year 7 – Excellent work in Science. Over the Christmas holiday some of the fantastic models of cells made last year by our year 7 students were on display at the Salamander centre. The quality of work was outstanding.

This year, our new Year 7s are continuing the trend with some more brilliant work (courtesy of one of our new Science teachers Mr Raymond). Below are some excellent posters made during the first topic and two of the working sundials.

Introduction to Science – posters for the lab by Rachael Teale 7K

Introduction to Science - working sundials by Rory Davis and Curtis Nunn 7J.
Science News (Cont)

Year 12 Mid Course exams

The mid-course exams for Year 12 Science courses will be a test of the work covered since term 4 last year.

Students are strongly encouraged to put some quality time into preparing for these assessment exams for several reasons. The marks count towards their school assessment for the HSC; it will provide them with genuine practice for the type of questions they will expect in their HSC papers and the exams will help them to identify areas which need more attention – hopefully not too many, if they have prepared well.

We have encouraged students to develop topic summaries throughout their time in both junior and senior Science. Preparing good summaries now - in preparation for the mid-course exams, will provide them with a strong foundation for their preparation for the trials and actual HSC exams later in the year.

Stephen Fogwill
Head Teacher - Science

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HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus?

It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
Disability provisions for the Higher School Certificate examinations

The following is information for Students and Parents for Disability Provisions for the HSC.

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results.

Students may need provisions for:

- a permanent condition, such as diabetes or reading difficulty
- a temporary condition, such as a broken arm, or
- an intermittent condition, such as back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells us which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with Fran Urquhart - Learning and Support Teacher.
Seasons for Growth has been operating successfully at Tomaree Public & High Schools for a number of years. Many parents have requested the opportunity to join a Seasons for Growth group.

The Seasons for Growth Adult Program was specifically developed to address the needs of adults to understand and manage change, loss and grief in their lives.

The focus of the Adult Seasons for Growth Program addresses a range of losses experienced by participants in addition to death, separation and divorce and change.

Seasons for Growth is for individuals not couples, partners and siblings.

This is a great program. It is free to those participating. It will operate in the evenings at a time that suits as many as possible.

The following are comments from Participants who completed our Adult course:

…the program just got better as the program continued

Helped me see ways of dealing with life

Change and the concept of seasons inspire me

Each member had their moment and an equal chance to speak

I grew and learnt more about myself

That my feelings are real

It was what I needed at this time in my life

Helped me to verbalise my feelings and emotions

I met others in the same boat

I continue to understand that things will change and will feel less intensive, and perhaps better.

We will run Adult Seasons for Growth this year. If you are interested please fill out the form below and send it to the school for the attention of Greg Smith, School Chaplain.

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TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION, THIS SECTION MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM. PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

I would like to attend the Adult Seasons for Growth Program.

Name:_______________________ Signature:_______________________

Contact phone number: (hm)___________________

Mobile:__________________________