YEAR 7 SCHOOL CAMP

The pinnacle of Term One for Year 7 is school camp, and what a camp we had! Camp is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and make new, sometimes life long, friends. And, it appears, that that is just what happened. From running through the bush trying to ‘save’ students from capture to swinging from high ropes, it was an adventure filled event. Students participated in a variety of activities such as the survivor challenge where students had to use some planks of wood and their brains to cross a muddy cesspit, climb a vertical wall of ‘terror’, paddle across a weed (and probably eel) infested swamp, create a raft to save themselves from a life trapped on a dirt island, cross the rickety bridge of high ropes and zoom through the air on flying foxes and the giant swing to ensure safety to solid ground! It was wonderful to see how far students pushed themselves to overcome their fear which was a fantastic show of resilience. Others learnt to work as a team and communicate effectively with people they have never met. One half of Group 2 demonstrated their prowess at communicating through the squeeze of a hand, while the other half looked around bewildered and wondered what on earth had just happened!

It wasn’t just the students who had a wonderful time, the staff who attended also enjoyed spending time challenging themselves through the various activities, although it is safe to say that Mr Williams will never be an archer and Mr Baxter managed a somewhat strangled ‘Tarzan’ scream on the giant swing, much to the amusement of those who had already had their turn and tried their best not to make a noise. It also turns out that I can only climb my height on the rock wall, and I’m 5’2.

Our students’ behaviour was excellent, the level of participation was wonderful to see and it is something that I will take with me throughout my time as their Year Adviser. The students represented our school beautifully and every single child who attended camp should be proud of themselves. So thank you, Year 7 - it was fabulous.

Now, to start thinking about the Gold Coast in 2018...

Kylie McElwain
Year Adviser

Please see the following newsletter for lots more interesting year 7 camp photos.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Years 9 and 11
Students have been advised that courses will no longer be changed without extended consultation. In both Years 9 and 11, students have been very cooperative and have followed the appropriate processes, however courses are now commencing assessment tasks and continuity needs to be maintained. I am confident that all students have been offered a fair chance to attempt courses and make a judgement about appropriateness.

Year 7
Year 7 camp has been a huge success. This was an opportunity for students to make new friends and genuinely feel part of their new school. Unfortunately, some students did miss out on camp because they failed to meet the deadlines for permission notes and payments. The school always publishes deadlines and has support payment systems. Please contact the school prior to deadlines if you would like to discuss concerns about meeting the deadlines or payments.

Homework Centre
It is very encouraging to see the increasing number of students who are attending the Library Homework Centre on Mondays and the Mathematics Tutorial on Wednesdays. If students would like to receive support in a specific subject, they should either ask their teacher or talk to their Deputy to arrange a subject teacher to be present at the centres.

Year 12
I would like to wish Year 12 all the best in their upcoming half-yearly examinations. My advice is as always, do a little bit each day and stay on top of your homework, study and assessments.

Playground
All students are encouraged to take pride in their surroundings and do their best to maintain our beautiful grounds. We have plenty of bins available; please ensure that your rubbish is placed in the bins provided. Remember what PBL looks like in the playground!

Recognition System
Tomaree High School is a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school. PBL encourages students to demonstrate our school expectations in all settings as this creates a positive and safe culture for learning. Students who demonstrate the school expectations of ‘Respect, Responsibility and Striving for Excellence’ consistently are being formally recognised by staff who reward them with either a GOTCHA (a caught you being good reward) or a commendation. Students who receive this recognition then go into a weekly draw for a $5 voucher at the canteen. A draw is done for each stage for students who have received commendations and a draw is also done for playground and classroom GOTCHAs. So far this year, staff have given out 2,586 commendations to 968 students.

Deputy Principal
Mr P Baxter

P & C MEETING
The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1st at 7pm in the Teachers’ Common Room.

We welcome all parents/carers in the school community to come along, join in the discussion and learn what happens behind the scenes at Tomaree High School.

Leanne Veasey - Publicity Officer
The Shortland Wetlands Centre is a remnant flood plain wetland on the edge of Hexham Swamp.

The wetland reserve has a physical connection with the Hunter Estuary through Ironbark Creek. The Centre was established in 1985 to encourage conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna; to provide facilities for the scientific study of wetlands and; to co-operate with like-minded organisations.

Today, the site has been rehabilitated to provide a network of fresh and brackish ponds, providing habitat for a diverse range of wetland flora and fauna, including 40 species of water birds. Conservation projects at the Wetlands Centre include re-introduction of the Magpie Goose and captive breeding of the Freckled Duck as well as a pond to support the re-introduction of the Green and Golden Bell Frog.

Students in the class conducted fieldwork at the site on Tuesday, March 10 as part of their studies on Biophysical Interactions.

Students collected both abiotic and biotic date on the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. Temperature, humidity, wind-speed and direction, water depth, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and salinity measurements were taken as well as transect, quadrent and dipnethy activities. The factors which threaten the health of the site including introduced species, water quality and conflict of land use and the management of these issues were also investigated on the day.
Learn to Sail

Fielding Madden Park
Grahamstown Dam

14, 15, 16 & 17 April 2015
(Tuesday to Friday)

Cost: *$45/sailor
* $60 per family (maximum 3 persons, $10pp extra)

Fee includes: use of personal flotation device, course handbook, instruction by experienced sailors, practical sailing and racing activities, Certificate on completion.

Kiosk open: Light snacks, drinks, ice creams available

Time: 10am - approx. 3pm each day.

Venue: Fielding Madden Park
Grahamstown Rd. Medowie

To book, please contact (bookings essential):
Richard Byrne 4981 7509, sailwithrichard@gmail.com or
Frank Bardsley Ph/fax 4982 3053

Who can learn? Anyone, age 10 yrs & above.
(If you have younger children wishing to participate please contact us.)

People with disabilities are welcome!
* $25 for participants or $40 per family

Sailability, a world-wide organisation, aims at making Sailing available at low cost for all, regardless of ability.
SUPPORT UNIT - WORK EXPERIENCE

Jonty Sproule is doing work experience in the High School Canteen. Every Friday Jonty is assisting with packing the fridge and helping with several other tasks. Jonty is very proud of the work he is doing and is learning many new skills.

Rebekah Meagher
Support Unit

Term 1 ends on Thursday, April 2nd and school resumes for all students on Tuesday, April 21st.

We wish all students, parents and carers, a Happy Easter and a safe holiday.

CHANGE OF UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

New hours from Monday 11th May 2015
MONDAY  8am. – 11am.
THURSDAY 2pm. - 4.30pm.
Phone: 4981 1444 (School) or 4981 0011 (Shop hours)
EASTER RAFFLE

Year 12 students Hayley White, Jessica Andrews and Aimee Duthy, have been selling tickets during breaks to raise funds for the end of year formal. This raffle of Easter eggs will be drawn next Wednesday 1st April during Assembly.