PHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Picton High School Swimming Carnival took place on Wednesday 10th February at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre. The weather was extremely kind to us, with a hot and sunny day ahead. This year saw the introduction of new houses (Cahill, Freeman, Meares and Thorpe) and house captains which created a great atmosphere on the day. The competitive events were hotly contested in the junior age groups this year, with Year 7 students featuring heavily in all strokes. It was also fantastic to see great sportsmanship on the day during these events; a notable mention needs to go to Scott Rogers from Year 8, who swam and cheered fellow competitors in the pool after he finished the race. This year not only did we run competitive events for swimmers to qualify for the Macarthur Zone Carnival, but also novelty events for each age group. The boogie board racers were a huge success for students and staff alike.

We finished the day with the famous student and staff relay. Four students and two staff members from each house competed against one another for house bragging rights. Each member of each house was announced with Freeman making an extraordinary entrance to pool deck with their own backing track. Although the race was close, the winning house Meares took it out in a tight finish.

Congratulations need to go to the students who have qualified for the school team to compete at the Zone Carnival on the 1st March. I would also like to congratulate those students who finished age champions and the winning house Meares who took out the championship convincingly!

Girls Age Champions

12 years Girls Age Champion – Tiana Van Stralen
13 years Girls Age Champion – Hannah Maciaczyk
14 years Girls Age Champion – Lucy Clout
15 years Girls Age Champion – Louise Wyeth
16 years Girls Age Champion – Stephanie Lees
17+ years Girls Age Champion – Rebecca Canning

Boys Age Champions

12 years Boys Age Champions – Ethan Cassidy & Jack Walker
13 years Boys Age Champion – Liam Gregory
14 years Boys Age Champion – Scott Rogers
15 years Boys Age Champion – Blake Osborne
16 years Boys Age Champion – Campbell De La Mare
17+ years Boys Age Champion – Dillon Ray

YEAR 7 CAMP

Week 5 saw Year 7 attend the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber, and what a huge 3 days it was!

We arrived at the campsite fresh-faced and ready for action. Some activities that we participated in included: Archery, Abseiling, Rock Climbing, Giant Swing, Canoeing, Mud Challenge, Survivor Challenge and Initiatives. Students displayed team work, goal setting and enthusiasm, and the teachers were extremely impressed with those who faced their fears, especially when it came to heights. Night time saw a Students Vs Teachers Commando Challenge, where ‘hostages’ were needed to be saved.

Many laughs were had throughout the week, along with many new friendships being formed. A huge thank you to all staff involved & the Peer Support Leaders who attended. Miss Saare hopes that all students had an amazing time.

Some highlights:

- Noah Brown-Hill and Riley Bliefnick capsizing their canoe TWICE (Poor Caitlin Bale who was with them)
- Mr Kear dominating the Commando Challenge, taking 22 students ‘lives’
- Joshua Delaporte smashing it at abseiling
- Miss Saare going face-first into the mud at the Lost Island
- Brock Copas continually putting 100% into all activities
**STUDENT in FOCUS**

Jack Hilliar,

For the past 2 years Picton High School’s graduates have achieved some impressive results in their HSC examinations.

Jack Hilliar recorded the best result with an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) of 99.3; the highest ATAR rank in recent history. Jack had an impressive start to his HSC career, he completed the whole preliminary Mathematics (2 Unit) and Extension 1 (3 Unit) course in only three terms, when he was in year 10. In 2014, when he was in year 11, he achieved a mark of 99 for his HSC Extension 1 Mathematics course, 95 for his HSC Extension 2 Mathematics (4 Unit) course and another band 6 for the Information Processes and Technology (IPT) course he completed by himself through distance education. Recently he achieve 2 more band 6 results in the HSC Chemistry and HSC Physics course.

His band 6 results placed him in the Distinguished Achievers List in both 2014 and 2015 and his overall results also places him in the prestigious 2015 All Round Achievers List. To be placed in the All Round Achievers List, Jack had to have achieved the highest band (Band 6 or E4) in 10 or more units of courses (or 5 or more courses).

Jack’s impressive results demonstrates his natural talents and is a testament to his commitment to success. I have had the pleasure of teaching Jack from year 10, all the way to year 12 and have witness Jack grow into an intellectual and analytical young man who is truly gifted at Mathematics and I eagerly look forward to reading about all of Jack’s future achievements.

As teachers we often recognise that not all our students can possess the natural talent for our subject like Jack Hilliar; however Jack Hilliar has worked extremely hard to achieve his successes, he did not rest on his laurels and relied solely on his natural abilities to succeed. I truly believe that any students regardless of ability level can achieve success in Mathematics through hard work and the right strategies.

The student who are most successful in Mathematics are the ones who work the hardest, so please keep an open mind, try and work your hardest to succeed in this subject.

**HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN MATHEMATICS**

Here are Ms. Au’s top 5 strategies for performing well in Mathematics.

1. Develop a positive relationship with your Mathematics teacher. We care about each and every one of our students and really want you to achieve to the best of your abilities. In order to do this, we want you to positively participate in all class activities and ask questions when you are stuck on a problem or when you don’t understand a concept. Questioning is another way we learn. If you have a question, ask it, chances are other students in the class probably have the same question. Seek as much help as quickly as possible, to help straighten out any misunderstanding before they snowball. Asking questions is a lifelong skill and your class room is a safe and positive place to practise this skill.

2. Attend all classes. Mathematics is a subject that moves fast, you would have already noticed by now that a new concepts is studied every day. What we do on Monday will build towards a new skill studied on Tuesday. Missing lessons greatly disadvantages you for the next lesson so please ensure you turn up to each and every class. If you are unable to make it to class, be proactive and ask your teacher to go through the work with you again or ask for revision work. Have a study buddy who can help you catch up with the work you missed.

3. Do all your homework. Homework is not a choice or a punishment, it is one of the most important way students can practice and master skills studied in class. Set aside a regular time and place to do all your assigned homework, so that completing homework becomes part of your regular routine.

4. Look over your mistakes. Do not fear and ignore your mistakes. It is important to fix your mistakes and understand how they are made, otherwise you will be doomed to repeating them again. Look over your mistakes, correct them and figure how you can do it right. If it helps, make notes on your exams, homework or assignment. Ask your teacher for feedback and revise that skill again until you have mastered it.

5. Practice, practice, practice!!! To be successful, students have to have mastered basic numeracy (arithmetic), algebra and geometry skills. These skills provide the foundation to learning more complex concepts later on in senior years. If you don’t feel confident in your basic skills or have gaps, practice! Make flash cards or posters to stick on your walls or buy a computer program to practice these skills.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<td>8 Mar</td>
<td>Museum of Human Disease</td>
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<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>11 Mar</td>
<td>Girls league Tag Gala Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Mar</td>
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<td>14 Mar</td>
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<td>14-15 Mar</td>
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<td>Year 12 Luna Park Excursion</td>
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<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Cyberia: Social Media and Bullying Year 8 &amp; 9</td>
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