

May 2013



Next P & C MEETING

Tuesday 28th May 2013
Commencing at 6.00pm
in the School Library
All Welcome!

This Issue

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Principal's Report

Mark McConville



ANZAC DAY

Thank you to the students and staff that attended the Toronto Anzac Day March. It was a glorious day. Our School Captains, Jett Wheelhouse and Jaca Ridgeon, spoke extremely well on the day.

The school Anzac Day ceremony was held on the first Thursday back at school. It was a time of reflection, and acknowledgement of those that served our country.



Catalina Academy for Innovation in Learning (CAIL)

Toronto High School introduced a Gifted and Talented (GAT) stream into the academic offerings at the school for the first time this year. The aim is to have a 'true' GATs class – so that families on the western side of Lake Macquarie have an alternative to Merewether HS and other providers that may be operating in this area. We are setting high standards for this class and I expect that the candidature will grow from year to year.

Once again we have had strong interest from local and non-local families from both public and private schools for the 2014 intake. They have already completed the intake exams and we are currently interviewing the students and their families to finalise the offers for this class next year.

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School Uniform Changes

We are currently in the process of going to tender to find a Uniform Shop provider. As a result there will be modifications to the Toronto High School uniform. The only correct uniform will be the one provided by the Uniform Shop.

The uniform modifications were displayed and discussed at the P&C meeting in March. Students will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the uniform modifications. Any uniform modification will be phased in, so that families are not disadvantaged. It is envisaged that the revised uniform will be available from the end of the year.

National Assessment Program

NAPLAN was scheduled for 14th-16th May for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia. The results of these tests will provide useful information for teachers and parents. In particular, they will help to inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students across all subjects.

As well as the ongoing focus on literacy and numeracy, there was a targeted focus with students in Years 7 and 9 in the lead up to the testing.

Parents will receive the results later in the year. I would like to remind parents that these tests are one-off tests and the school uses a range of ongoing assessments to diagnose and support student learning.

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting

There is an AEAC meeting on Thursday 30th May starting at 1.20pm in the school common room. Everyone is welcome. I hope to see you there.

Staffing Update

Mrs Emily Clewett will be the Relieving Head Teacher Science until the end of the year. We will then advertise this position to fill prior to the commencement of the 2014 school year.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Ms Evelyn Wilson-Babic who has been the Relieving Head Teacher Science for the past 18 months. Ms Wilson-Babic is returning to her position as Head Teacher Welfare.

This means that Mr Moore will return to full classroom teacher duties, as he has been filling in for Ms Wilson-Babic. I would like to thank Mr Moore for his efforts in this position over the past 18 months.

Mrs Gromek has been Relieving Deputy Principal while Mr Morgan has been on Long Service Leave. I would like to thank Mrs Gromek for her effort and support during this time. It is great to see that we have such depth within our own teacher ranks to fill vacant leadership positions when they become available.

Year 7 2014

Applications have already arrived via the primary schools. If you know someone who is planning on enrolling their child at Toronto High School and haven't applied for a position, please tell them to contact the school ASAP.

Students will be placed in classes via the K – 12 Committee. The K – 12 Committee comprises staff from the primary schools and Toronto High School. Student results (class assessments, portfolios etc) will be

used to guide placement into one of the above classes. Classes are formed on a temporary basis to start the year and changes may occur once high school staff have assessed students' abilities.

Year 7 students have the opportunity to participate in a Talent Enrichment Program (TEP). This program is offered to all students in Year 7 at Toronto High School. To access these programs students must be enrolled at the school. These programs provide students with the opportunity to extend themselves in an area of talent or interest.

Toronto High School will offer the Year 7 2014 cohort talented enrichment programs in:

- Technology
- Challenge (Higher Order Thinking)
- Science
- Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
- Sport

Students can access their talent or interest no matter what 'academic stream' (A Stream, B Stream or Improvers) they may be placed in.

Trade Training Centre

The Toronto High School Metals and Engineering Trade Training Centre is nearing completion. This facility has been made possible due to an investment of close to \$700,000 into the school by the federal government.

Further information regarding this fantastic facility will be provided in an upcoming bulletin closer to completion.



Student Assistance

Parents experiencing financial difficulty in meeting school expenses including subject specific fees and uniforms are invited to confidentially contact me to discuss the process. A limited amount of funds is supplied by the Government for needy families to assist with educational expenses. I encourage parents to seek this assistance.

Canteen

While the school canteen is being upgraded, the canteen will operate out of the hall. There will be disruptions to the regular operating hours of the canteen due to exams, but students have been informed of any changes in hours. Hopefully the new canteen will be open before the end of term.

We are always on the look-out for additional canteen helpers. The Canteen Co-ordinator Mrs Bradley is desperately in need of reliable volunteers for Tuesdays and Wednesdays of Term 3. With the opening of the new canteen there will be training in the new cash register system. This could be a great time to join in and support the school and see the new canteen! Contact the school office to be placed on the canteen roster.



Deputy Principal's Report – Yrs 7, 9 & 11

Annette Gromek (Relieving Deputy)

Exams

With Term 2 well underway, students have begun Semester 1 exams. It is a time where staff assess students' learning and levels of achievement in the year to date.

To give themselves the best opportunity for success in the exams, students must ensure they are fully prepared. Eight hours of sleep the night before the exam, a well-balanced breakfast of complex carbohydrates and adequate hydration ensures students are physically ready. Some students may find the MPC cool, despite the heaters being on, so ensure you wear warm underclothing beneath the school uniform. When it comes to study, a balanced approach is best. Having revised lessons daily and also having made study notes allows students to study for each subject. If you have clarifying questions, please see staff before entering the exam room.

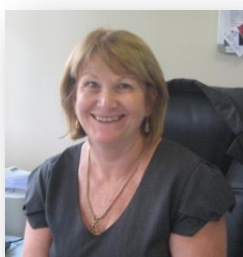
Along with the cool weather, also comes illness. If unable to attend school and sit for exams, students should be prepared to complete them upon return to school. This may mean sitting with students from other years in the MPC to do the exams. Remember, when returning to school following any absence, when arriving late or wishing to leave early, a note from home stating reasons is required.

To and From School

Safety for School Travel - Stranger Danger - students are regularly reminded about their safety on their way to and from school. It is best to walk with others and if approached and offered a lift, move quickly away from the vehicle and report the incident immediately to responsible adults. If possible, try to take note of the colour, type and make of the car when making the report. This information, when passed on to police, provides essential information for the authorities to apprehend culprits.

It has been noted that some of our students who ride bicycles to school are not adhering to correct road rules in the wearing of helmets. It is a legal requirement for all cyclists to wear approved helmets correctly secured to the head when riding. Helmets prevent severe head injury in the case of accident. Police are checking on this and are issuing warnings to offenders. Make sure you protect your head and don't receive a warning by not wearing your "skid lid"!

Bus travel – students are reminded to behave appropriately on buses. Drivers require full attention to the road and not to rowdy disruptive students. Hence when accessing bus transport, students are required to display the behaviour expected in classes to ensure their safe travel.



Deputy Principal's Report – Yrs 8, 10 & 12

Paula Reilly

Welcome to Term 2. Although it is only a nine week term, it will be eventful as there is a lot happening in a short space of time. Years 7 to 10 exams start in Week 4 and students were issued with an Exam Timetable in Week 3. It may be found in their bags if parents have not sighted it yet! Students are encouraged to

do their very best and put the effort in that is always required to achieve well at anything in life. Apart from having a regular study program, teenagers need to develop positive sleep patterns to achieve their best. I have noticed, on occasions, that some students appear tired and disorganised for the school day, so I am offering a few points around improving sleep patterns.

Teenagers and sleep

Sleep research suggests that teenagers need between nine and ten hours of sleep every night. However, we know this doesn't always occur!

Factors that can contribute to insufficient sleep are: hectic extra-curricular schedules, television and gaming and late night light exposure (especially from computers and mobile phones). There are unfortunately many ill effects from sleep deprivation: concentration difficulties, mentally 'drifting off' in class, shortened attention span, memory impairment, poor decision making, lack of enthusiasm, nightmares, moodiness and aggression, depression, skin problems, lowered immune system, lack of energy, risk-taking behaviour, cognitive impairment, cravings for unhealthy food leading to weight gain, slower physical reflexes, reduced sporting performance and reduced academic performance.

No-one wants to experience these things! So what can we do to prevent sleep deprivation? Parents and students need to work together to find ways to increase the nightly quota of sleep.

Some ideas to consider:

- Sleep in a bit (maximum 2 hours) on Saturday morning (students will like this one!).
- Avoid late nights on the weekend, try and go to bed the same time as you do during the week so you do not disrupt your sleep patterns. Get to bed early on a Sunday night.
- Avoid caffeine (cola drink, coffee, energy drinks and chocolate) after dinner or even better, no later than 4pm.
- Organise as much as you can at night to minimise what you have to do in the morning (e.g. organise your clothes for the next day, pack your bag).
- Decide what time electronic devices will be switched off each night.
- Avoid watching TV for at least half an hour before you go to bed.
- Try and have an hour before you go to bed without computers or homework or chatting to friends.
- Set up a relaxing 'wind-down' routine before you go to bed. Do this same routine every night (e.g. warm shower, reading, listening to quiet music) so your brain associates these activities with bed time and sleep.
- Maintain a healthy diet and ensure you get some exercise (but not late at night). These will both help to improve the quality of your sleep.

It will take around 4-6 weeks of getting extra sleep regularly before you really feel the benefits, so hang in there!

Cyber Safety

Parents and caregivers are reminded of the Department and school's cyber safety guidelines and policy (<http://www.ehs.nsw.edu.au/en/policies-and-programs/studentwellbeing/cyber-safety>) in relation to any form of digital/electronic communication. We recognise how central and convenient smart devices are to most people's lives but we also highlight to students that their use is contingent on the responsibilities we all have in using them appropriately.

Teachers have a responsibility to take action where students use social media, for example, in ways that negatively impact on other students at school. Parents are therefore requested to closely monitor their child's usage of digital communications and continue to highlight the dangers (including legal recourse) of inappropriate use.

We continue at assemblies and throughout the day to remind students of their responsibilities around the use of mobile phones and having them away and switched off. They are asked to show respect to their teachers and their peers and remember that being in class is about learning and being in control of their behaviour. This is fundamental to their success in later life- that is, being able to put boundaries around their own behaviour and to be positive in their interactions with others.

The Welfare Team

Toronto High School has an extremely active Welfare Team led by Head Teacher, Ms Wilson- Babic. They are concerned with the pastoral care of students and are constantly putting in place support plans and strategies for those in need. We value the difference they make to students' lives and encourage parents to speak to their child's year adviser if they have any concerns.

Year Advisers 2013

Year 7	Samara Gibson	Year 8	Jane Willott
Year 9	Lindsay Muxlow	Year 10	Ty Marshall
Year 11	Russell Moore	Year 12	Kathy Goman

School Counsellors

Jo Wickham - available Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Belinda Robinson - available Friday

Student Support Officer - Madelyn Smith - available everyday

School Chaplain - Margaret Wood - available Thursday & Friday

I would also like to acknowledge the great work of Mr Russell Moore whilst he was relieving as Head Teacher Welfare.

GENERAL NEWS

Entertainment Books

These fantastic little books are now available from the school office for a low cost of \$60. The books are full of fabulous offers and discounts and are certainly worth their weight in gold. This is a Student Representative Council initiative with profits raised going towards the Year 12 students' gift to the school. Please support our students!



Fees

Student Invoices for 2013 will be mailed shortly. Payments can be made by cheque, cash or EFTPOS at the school's front office. For your convenience we are also able to take credit card payments over the phone. The hours for receipting are 8.00am to 2.00pm. Should you be unable to pay the entire amount upfront, these fees can be paid weekly, monthly or quarterly.

Parents experiencing financial difficulty in meeting school expenses including subject specific fees and uniforms are invited to confidentially contact The Principal Mr McConville.

Lost Property

A small amount of jewellery has been found. Should you know of any member of the school community who has lost jewellery please contact the front office. The potential owner will need to correctly identify the items before the jewellery can be released to the rightful owner.

Uniform Shop

Hours of Operation for the Uniform Shop are –

Monday	8.00am to 8.15am	1.00pm to 1.20pm
Wednesday	8.00am to 8.15am	1.00pm to 1.20pm

Should you be unable to attend the shop at these times, kindly contact the front office on Ph 49591788 to make an appointment. An appointment will enable us to attend to your needs at a designated time, out of normal opening hours, whilst also alleviating any waiting times for you. Thank you.

P & C Association

Research shows that the vital ingredient for a student's engagement and participation in learning is parental involvement. Children need help, support and involvement from their parents to succeed at school, and a great way to do this is by being a part of P&C.

The hardworking team on the THS P&C assists the school in providing the greatest educational opportunities for our children. They get to talk directly with staff about the school, they sit on interview panels for the hiring of staff, make valuable contributions to school functions and help in any way they can.

The next P & C meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28th May, 6pm in the school library. Come along and be part of the team. You can listen, have your say, or you can put your hand up to help out with various activities. All are welcome!!

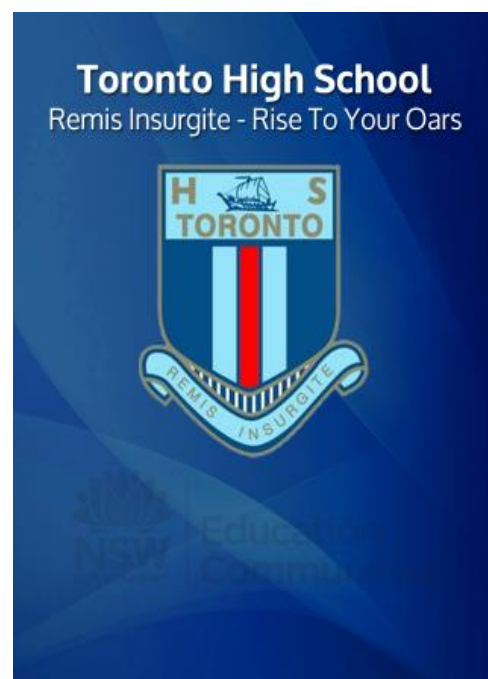
School APP

As has been advertised the Toronto High School APP is now up and running. Please take the time to discover all of the features and the benefits that the APP offers.

The app gives parents the ability to instantly access newsletters without going directly to the website, be informed of messages as they come to hand, calendar of events, Parent Teacher Online bookings, Timetables and much more. We even have a section "Parents Biz Directory" where parents, for a nominal fee, can advertise their business for the convenience of the entire school community.

Congratulations to Wendy Clifford of Westlakes Driving School who is our first THS supporter to take advantage of this advertising feature on our School APP. Well done Wendy!

Please contact the school for further information on this feature.



To download the THS APP simply go to the Apple APP Store or the Android/Google Play market, search Toronto High School and install. The App will start to install instantly. Good luck!!

“CHESS ON TUESDAYS”

An activity initiated this term by Library Teachers Mrs Figures and Mrs Frost, has made the library the place to be on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Reports to date are that Chess on Tuesdays has had a fantastic turnout with student numbers increasing each week. It is great to see students keen to challenge one another.

Come along and have some fun!!! All are welcome!!
Remember – Lunchtime in the Library - Tuesdays



GIRLS FUTSAL GALA DAY

By Mrs Crawford

The Girls Futsal Gala day was held at Howzat in Newcastle recently, and with only managing to get 5 girls for an Under 19s team, the team were pretty tired by the end of it! With no training sessions, no matching socks, and for some, no idea of how to play, the girls held their own pretty well against the other teams who had imposing coaches and apparent Australian futsal players.

We just missed out on the semifinals, but, we did manage to knock over the most girls on the other team, be the most excited about getting a goal, and, always being the first team to smile and shake hands at the end of the game. Great sportsmanship! Extremely proud of the effort they put in on the day. Thanks girls for a great day!



To access our facebook page – [Toronto High School NSW – Official Site](https://www.facebook.com/TorontoHighSchool)
Go to www.facebook.com/TorontoHighSchool

JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER

By Mrs Cox

Junior girls from Years 7, 8 & 9 participated in the Bill Turner Cup recently at Speers Point.

Arriving at Speers Point Park for the first 9.00 am game, their opponents Belmont High School failed to arrive so the girls won by forfeit. As their next game was against Morrisset High at 12.00pm, the girls played a short friendly match against St Pauls High as a "warm up".



For the main games the girls played short with 10 players. Despite this they dominated for most of the match giving the opposition few chances to score. All players were steadfast in defence and determined in attack. Our Year 7 girls worked particularly hard all game, displaying fantastic skills in fighting for the ball, taking on defenders and scoring 3 goals. In all the girls had a great day and enjoyed the win.

Special thanks to Mrs McKenna for helping with the nets and all the parents who helped out on the day. Thank you also to the girls who helped organise the team for the day.



SRC CAKE STALL

The Student Representative Council recently held a Cake Stall at school to help students raise funds for the Yr 12 formal.

Students were fortunate to raise over \$800.00. Thanks to all of the students who baked some lovely cakes for the day and to Miss Goman for her organisation of the day.

DOBELL ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Shannon Cadman and Daniel Snedden who both won prizes in the Dobell Art Competition.

Shannon won an impressive \$250 for her work while Daniel picked up \$50 for his pastel drawing. Well done to both of you!!

Look out for fantastic pictures of our students's work in next month's newsletter.

Year 11 LEGAL STUDIES

Students from Toronto High School recently had the opportunity to experience life within a courtroom. As part of the Year 11 Legal Studies Course a team of students from different high schools compete against each other in a series of "Mock Trials". The trial details are actually adopted from real life cases with each student playing a courtroom role of either a solicitor, barrister, witness or court officer in either the Defence or Prosecution team. Each member is assessed on their ability to perform each of these roles.



Although the THS team were unsuccessful in the second round of the competition, having only lost by a small margin, it is the personal growth by each team member in terms of self confidence, planning and commitment that is the main objective of our participation. Each member of the THS team are to be congratulated for their attitude and performance particularly as the team has received no external help from a "coach". Unfortunately the organiser of the competition, The Law Society, has been unable to provide professional legal expertise for the team to date.

The team from THS were successful in gaining a place in the second round however were unfortunately knocked out by Warners Bay HS.

WOT Opera

Students in our school have been given a wonderful opportunity to devise, write the script, write the songs, paint the sets and perform a short 20 minute opera.

We have wonderful dedicated staff coming to our school for four school days to get all this done. The methods they are using with our GATS students are new and innovative.

The students are having a wonderful time immersing themselves in the whole experience. Every student is listened to in the writing and singing process. Every student is involved in the set design and production. The CAPA staff have been so impressed not only with the students and their enthusiasm, but the involvement of the WOT Opera staff.



We are waiting with anticipation to view the production which will be presented at the Newcastle Conservatorium at 7pm on 31st May. Tickets will be available through Ticketek. Please see the flyer following for information. Well done to all our budding WOT Opera students.



unlocking creativity

Harold Lobb Concert Hall, Newcastle
7pm, Friday 31 May 2013



WOTOPERA: Newcastle

original operas meaningful to the lives of young people

WotOpera unlocks the creative potential of young people. Over eighty students from four Newcastle high schools have written four operas that showcase their creativity, talents and boundless imaginations, the participating schools are:

Warners Bay High School

Lambton High School

Swansea High School

Toronto High School

The students collaborated to produce their own stories, then composed the music and designed and painted their sets in a series of four one-day workshops representing just 21 hours!

The four schools will come together to perform their individual works at the Harold Lobb Concert Hall, at Newcastle Conservatorium.

You are invited to delight in their journey and enjoy their creations on Friday 31 May at 7pm.

Date: 7pm, Friday 31 May 2013

Where: Harold Lobb Concert Hall,
Newcastle Conservatorium,
Cnr Auckland and Laman Streets,
Newcastle

Bookings: 49291977

Online: ticketek.com.au
Booking fees may apply.

Tickets: \$10 for Adults
\$5 for Concessions

Artistic Director:
Murray Dahm

Music Directors:
Dan Walker, Nathan Gilkes

Project Assistants:
Peter Aoun, Sophie Kelly,
Stephanie Acraman,
Katie McKee

Videographer:
Tanya Saint James

wotopera.org.au

**MEDIA CONSENT FORM
BETWEEN ARTOLOGY LIMITED AND PARENT/GUARDIAN**

(name of child)

(school)

Thank you for allowing your child to take part in WotOpera's media coverage. WotOpera is a young people's creative program by Artology Limited ('Artology').

You are the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child named above.

You authorise your child to be photographed, filmed, videoed, recorded or interviewed for purposes relevant to WotOpera.

You agree to Artology, or its agents and subcontractors, collecting, storing, using and disclosing your child's name and image or any publication featuring your child (including photographs, video recordings, filming, sound recordings and interviews) for the purposes of promoting or reporting on WotOpera. You acknowledge that such use may occur in Artology/WotOpera magazines, brochures, leaflets, WotOpera performance programs and videos, podcasts, websites and other electronic media including Youtube and Facebook.

You acknowledge and agree that neither you nor your child is entitled to any payments, royalties or commissions in connection with WotOpera or the matters contained in this media consent deed.

You release Artology and its stakeholders, officers, employees, contractors and agents from any liability whatsoever relating to your child's name and image being collected, stored, used or disclosed in accordance with this media consent form.

Signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child:

.....

Parent/guardian's signature

.....

Parent/guardian's signature

(Date)

Interesting reading

Courtesy of Jo Wickham, School Counsellor

“Why Parents Need to Let Their Children Fail”

A new study explores what happens to students who aren't allowed to suffer through setbacks.

Thirteen years ago, when I was a relatively new teacher, stumbling around my classroom on wobbly legs, I had to call a student's mother to inform her that I would be initiating disciplinary proceedings against her daughter for plagiarism, and that furthermore, her daughter would receive a zero for the plagiarized paper.

"You can't do that. She didn't do anything wrong," the mother informed me, enraged.

"But she did. I was able to find entire paragraphs lifted off of web sites," I stammered.

"No, I mean she didn't do it. I did. I wrote her paper."

I don't remember what I said in response, but I'm fairly confident I had to take a moment to digest what I had just heard. And what would I do, anyway? Suspend the mother? Keep her in for lunch detention and make her write "I will not write my daughter's papers using articles plagiarized from the Internet" one hundred times on the board? In all fairness, the mother submitted a defense: her daughter had been stressed out, and she did not want her to get sick or overwhelmed.

In the end, my student received a zero and I made sure she re-wrote the paper. Herself. Sure, I didn't have the authority to discipline the student's mother, but I have done so many times in my dreams.

While I am not sure what the mother gained from the experience, the daughter gained an understanding of consequences, and I gained a war story. I don't even bother with the old reliables anymore: the mother who "helps" a bit too much with the child's math homework, the father who builds the student's science project. Please. Don't waste my time.

The stories teachers exchange these days reveal a whole new level of overprotectiveness: parents who raise their children in a state of helplessness and powerlessness, children destined to an anxious adulthood, lacking the emotional resources they will need to cope with inevitable setback and failure.

I believed my accumulated compendium of teacher war stories were pretty good -- until I read [a study](#) out of Queensland University of Technology, by Judith Locke, et. al., a self-described "examination by parenting professionals of the concept of overparenting."

Overparenting is characterized in the study as parents' "misguided attempt to improve their child's current and future personal and academic success." In an attempt to understand such behaviors, the authors surveyed psychologists, guidance counselors, and teachers. The authors asked these professionals if they had witnessed examples of overparenting, and left space for descriptions of said examples. While the relatively small sample size and questionable method of subjective self-reporting cast a shadow on the study's statistical significance, the examples cited in the report provide enough ammunition for a year of dinner parties.

Some of the examples are the usual fare: a child isn't allowed to go to camp or learn to drive, a parent cuts up a 10 year-old's food or brings separate plates to parties for a 16 year-old because he's a picky eater. Yawn. These

barely rank a "Tsk, tsk" among my colleagues. And while I pity those kids, I'm not that worried. They will go out on their own someday and recover from their overprotective childhoods.

What worry me most are the examples of overparenting that have the potential to ruin a child's confidence and undermine an education in independence. According to the the authors, parents guilty of this kind of overparenting "take their child's perception as truth, regardless of the facts," and are "quick to believe their child over the adult and deny the possibility that their child was at fault or would even do something of that nature."

This is what we teachers see most often: what the authors term "high responsiveness and low demandingness" parents." These parents are highly responsive to the perceived needs and issues of their children, and don't give their children the chance to solve their own problems. These parents "rush to school at the whim of a phone call from their child to deliver items such as forgotten lunches, forgotten assignments, forgotten uniforms" and "demand better grades on the final semester reports or threaten withdrawal from school." One study participant described the problem this way:

I have worked with quite a number of parents who are so overprotective of their children that the children do not learn to take responsibility (and the natural consequences) of their actions. The children may develop a sense of entitlement and the parents then find it difficult to work with the school in a trusting, cooperative and solution focused manner, which would benefit both child and school.

These are the parents who worry me the most -- parents who won't let their child learn. You see, teachers don't just teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. We teach responsibility, organization, manners, restraint, and foresight. These skills may not get assessed on standardized testing, but as children plot their journey into adulthood, they are, by far, the most important life skills I teach.

I'm not suggesting that parents place blind trust in their children's teachers; I would never do such a thing myself. But children make mistakes, and when they do, it's vital that parents remember that the educational benefits of consequences are a gift, not a dereliction of duty. Year after year, my "best" students -- the ones who are happiest and successful in their lives -- are the students who were allowed to fail, held responsible for missteps, and challenged to be the best people they could be in the face of their mistakes.

I'm done fantasizing about ways to make that mom from 13 years ago see the light. That ship has sailed, and I did the best I could for her daughter. Every year, I reassure some parent, "This setback will be the best thing that ever happened to your child," and I've long since accepted that most parents won't believe me. That's fine. I'm patient. The lessons I teach in middle school don't typically pay off for years, and I don't expect thank-you cards.

I have learned to enjoy and find satisfaction in these day-to-day lessons, and in the time I get to spend with children in need of an education. But I fantasize about the day I will be trusted to teach my students how to roll with the punches, find their way through the gauntlet of adolescence, and stand firm in the face of the challenges -- challenges that have the power to transform today's children into resourceful, competent, and confident adults.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/01/why-parents-need-to-let-their-children-fail/272603/>

Toronto High School Trade Training Centre

Construction of the Toronto High School Trade Training Centre for Metal and Engineering is nearing completion. We hope to have students in the facility during Term 2. Teachers have been involved in a training day for the equipment that has already been installed.



TAS Course Fees

TAS course fees need to be paid as soon as possible. Non-payment of fees impacts greatly on the delivery of our practical components of our subjects. A course fee provides us with money to buy the consumables that are required for our practical based subjects. The consumable materials include timber, numerous food products for cooking classes, metal, nails, screws, glues, textile materials, just to name a few.

Should you be experiencing financial difficulties please contact the Head Teacher TAS Mr Frangos or the Principal Mr McConville for a confidential discussion.

English Faculty News

At the end of Term 2 the Year 12 Advanced English class ventured to the Sydney Opera House to see a production of Mary Shelley's gothic novel Frankenstein.

The novel is part of their comparative study with the film Blade Runner and it was a great opportunity to see the text brought to life by Britain's National Theatre. The original production was directed by Danny Boyle, now famous for his London Olympics Opening Ceremony, although he is a prolific director of films such as 127 Hours, Slumdog Millionaire and Trainspotting.

Before seeing the play we managed a few hours in The Rocks. We visited the Museum of Contemporary Art and a French patisserie before they asked their teacher to order them counter meals at a local pub. No alcohol was consumed but Jordan did eat some of the potted herbs from the garden outside. He obviously didn't know what happens when British tourists drink too much in this particular part of Sydney.

The play itself was an eye opener for the students. Theatre is not something they see very often and the quality of the production was clear to see. What was good about the piece was that it offered some new insights on the novel and created scenes that were not part of the text but essential to it nonetheless.

Mikhayla, one of our HSC Dance students was impressed with the physical work of Lee Jones, who played The Creature. His birthing sequence utilised techniques from Dance which made it a worthwhile experience for that particular subject area.

Along with the obvious benefits of our Drama and English students it also had relevance to the Biology students with the issue of Galvanism and reanimating lifeless matter important to the text. It was great to give the students a cultural experience but making it relevant across a number of subject areas meant that it was a valuable excursion.



Year 12 Advanced English class (including Elli Farrell's boots)

Oz Harvest Food Donations

by Kaylene Pring (Yr 12)

On the 19th of November 2012, my fellow student leaders and I attended a Young Leaders Conference held in Darling Harbour, promoting and developing strong leadership values amongst young Australians.

At this conference, inspirational speakers such as Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Kevin Sheedy and Ronni Kahn attended, inspiring the audience. One particular speaker who was inspirational was Ronni Kahn, the founder and CEO of OzHarvest and the recipient of the Vodafone World of Difference Program in 2009. OzHarvest is a service that collects and delivers surplus food to charities, where the food is then distributed to disadvantaged individuals in communities are Newcastle, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne.

That afternoon I contacted Ronni Kahn via her email address and told her of the idea of the non-perishable food drive. She approved of the idea then referred me on to Monique Maguire, the co-ordinator at Oz Harvest Newcastle branch. With the approval of Mr McConville and the enthusiastic support of my Year Adviser Miss Goman, the idea was approved, and to take action for Easter 2013. Through continual contact with Monique, we managed to organise Monique to come into our school and give a talk about Oz Harvest, and how the school can become involved with this not for profit organisation.

The food drive soon followed, with the yellow OzHarvest wheelie bin full of non-perishable food donated by the students and staff of Toronto High School. With the helping hand of a few fellow Year 12 students, we turned the food into hampers for Easter. The end result equalled 21 hampers and approximately 100kgs of food for OzHarvest with the hampers being delivered, just in time for Easter, to those who struggle to provide food for themselves and their families.



Congratulations to Toronto High School for getting involved and supporting our local community through this worthy cause.

LOCAL SCHOOLS NETBALL GALA DAY

by Mrs Clewett

On Tuesday March 19th 2013, 10 girls represented Toronto High School at a local schools gala day. We went through this competition undefeated and progressed through to the Zone Knockout Competition. Unfortunately we were knocked out in the next round. The girls played very well as a team and represented our school well.

The team consisted of Savannah Dimmock, Shae Jordan, Dominique Morrow, Paige Chappell, Cassandra Holland, Ryley Field, Rebecca Scully, Imogen Jaegar, Caitlin Mullane, Abby Foulcher and Melody Ward.

Congratulations girls, job well done!



CAIL - Bridges Exhibition Evening

Throughout Term 1 students in the CAIL program carried out extended project work exploring the world of bridges.

On Thursday 2nd May students then put their work on display in the first CAIL Exhibition Evening. It was a tremendous display showcasing the work of students in a wide range of activities including:

- Construction of pasta and balsa wood bridges
- Analysis of design and construction processes
- Film making
- Investigation and research into bridges (especially the Sydney Harbour Bridge)
- Bridge alternatives (such as fantastic model tunnel made by Allyssa Hickey – see below!)
- A wide range of written activities including: diaries, letters, reports, glossaries, fact files and more...



*The following is an account of the CAIL Class Excursion to the Sydney Harbour Bridge,
written by Daniel Moore.*

On Monday the 11th of March, the CAIL group travelled by train to Sydney. The aim of this excursion was to develop an understanding of how magnificent bridges can be by visiting the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

As we came to the top step of the northern side of the bridge, the roar of traffic was heard. The rumble of engines and the click-clack of wheels from cars, motorbikes and buses filled the air. I peeped over the steps and saw before my eyes the largest steel arch bridge in Australia. The arch spanned for what seemed like miles from one side of the harbour to the other, with pylons on either side marking a grand entrance. On top of the arch in the centre were 2 Australian flags flying proudly side by side in the wind. More steps were taken across the bridge until the harbour came into sight. Ferries rushed back and forward from one destination to another like a swarm of busy bees out foraging for honey to bring back to the hive, and docked into Circular Quay. Power boats sped by the Opera House turning up the water in a long white tail, while others occupied the bays in the harbour-sitting still on their moorings and left to bob up and down on the waves.

The class not only visited the Sydney Harbour Bridge to observe the structure, but also to learn about the history and construction of the bridge. After posing for a class photo, we made the long haul up 202 stairs lining the inside wall of the pylon to the museum. A guide gave students an insight into the construction and history attached to the bridge through various stories. Of the many stories told the war time history of the bridge made a particular impression on me.

On the 14th of July 1942, all tourists activities on the bridge were stopped as the Australian Government took measures to protect the bridge from possible attack by enemy forces. The 4 pylons of the bridge were fortified with parapets and anti-aircraft guns and manned by army personnel 24 hours a day until the end of war. This displaced those such as business man Archer Whitford who owned a successful tourist attraction in the pylon. After 8 years of service the business was shut down by officials. He was compensated for his loss by the government.

The bridge was then set to look over one of the rare incursions directly on Australia during the war. Planes patrolled an aerial view of Sydney and the military had guns at the ready. Watchmen in the pylons prepared themselves for any signs of invasion, but nothing prepared them for this. One night, 3 Japanese Submarines sneaked into the harbour. The Australian military forces had the submarines up in spot lights and were closing in. All the Australian forces needed was permission to open fire. Unfortunately the order did not come from head quarters, due to poor communication the clearance was not received. As a result of this, a Japanese submarine was able to fire a torpedo at HMAS Kuttabul, and kill 21 personnel onboard.

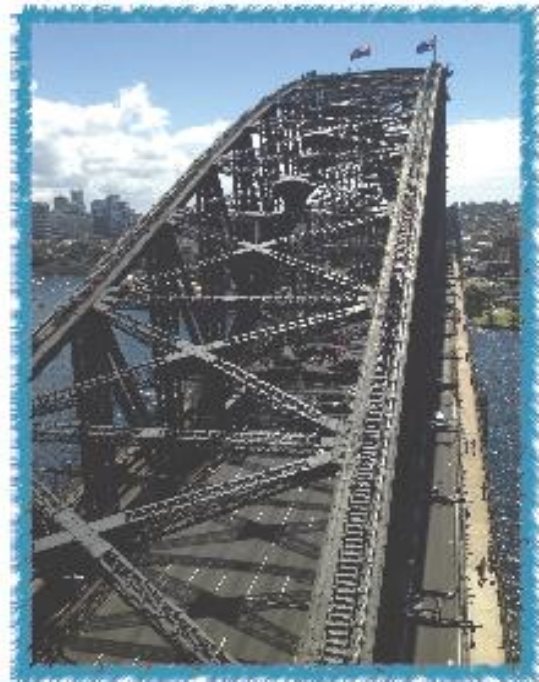
Going home at the end of the day, students were able to take a lot from the learning experience of this excursion. Every student enjoyed the remarkable stories and the history behind the bridge, while taking in the beautiful sights of the harbour.



Posing for a photo on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, standing outside the Pylon Museum



Students observing a picture taken at the opening of the bridge in the Pylon Museum.



View of the road deck looking down from the Pylon Lookout

Science News

Starting a new term in Science, junior students should be preparing for their Semester Exams starting in Week 4. These exams will wrap up the assessment cycle for the semester and they represent 40% of the cycle.



It is important that students prepare for these exams by revising their classroom notes and speaking to their classroom teachers, in order to clarify any concepts they do not understand.

HSC Science students have completed their half yearly exams, and now they have had a taste of the HSC exam format. For many this should be a wake-up call for what is required to prepare for the HSC exams. Preliminary students will be completing in class assessment tasks over the coming term and should refer to their assessment schedules for more details.



THE HIVE
HOMEWORK CENTRE
Monday 2.25 to 3.25pm
School Library
Mrs Smith-Kain



LJ Hooker
Toronto,
Rathmines &
Wangi Wangi
proudly sponsor
8 local schools

LJ Hooker

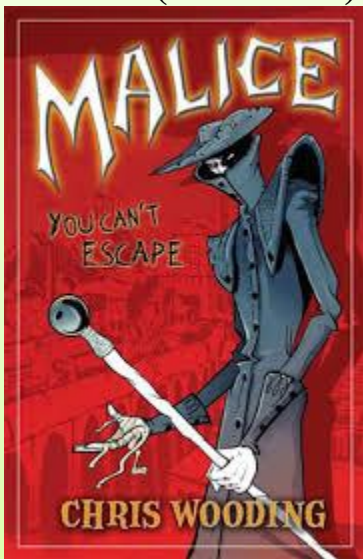


The Booklook Newsletter

Toronto High School Library

NEW FICTION TITLES

Malice (Malice #1)



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8347209-atrapados>

Havoc (Malice #2)

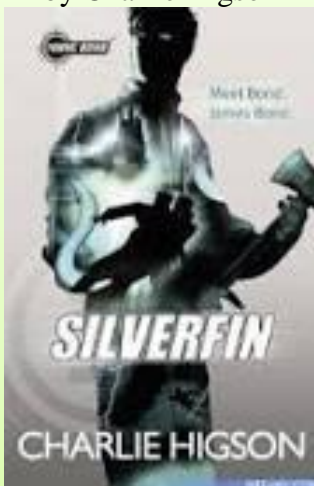


<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6975601-havoc>

NEW
CHRIS
WOODING
BOOKS

Silverfin

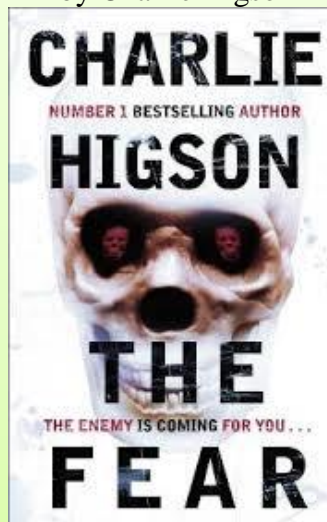
(Young James Bond #1)
by Charlie Higson



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/603911.Silverfin>

The Fear

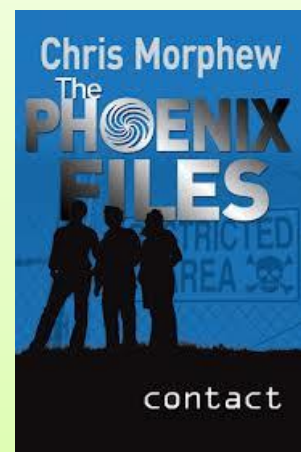
(The Enemy #3)
by Charlie Higson



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11686584-the-fear>

Contact

(The Phoenix Files #2)
by Chris Morphe



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7622434-contact>

Library Newsletter

Toronto High School

NEWS

Toronto High School Library welcomes all of our school community to another eventful Term.

An exciting new initiative for the Library is the 'Chess on Tuesday' club which is held in the Library on Tuesdays at Lunchtimes. It is proving to be very popular.

The Premier's Reading Challenge 2013 is underway. Toronto High School is registered and ready to go. **All students wishing to participate need to logon to the following website: -**

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html>

(Using student Portal username and password)

All students are rushing to borrow the **new Fiction** books which are featured in the '**BOOKLOOKS**'(below) so don't miss out!

Mrs Frost / Mrs Figures
Librarians

ANZAC Day Book Donations

We would like to thank the following organisations:-

- Toronto Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business community.
- Charlton Christian College.
- Toronto R.S.L.

For their kind Book Donations.

LinkLook

Suggested Websites



Fact Monster

Fact Monster is a free reference website designed for younger students. Students can get homework help and find facts on thousands of subjects. The Reference Desk on this site features a layout that is designed for easy fact-finding and includes timelines and an almanac, atlas, dictionary, and encyclopaedia, as well as a Homework Centre. Students can also search by visually identified topics or by typing in keywords.

<http://www.factmonster.com/>

Chess on Tuesdays

Starting Term 2

Lunchtime in the Library



SRC News

The SRC have been very busy this last month!! All students have elected to be a part of a team that represents various programs and initiatives within the school and community. The students chose to be Multicultural, Welfare or PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Ambassadors in which they work closely with the school, community groups and Department of Education personally highlighting various events with celebrations and fundraising. The students have also worked closely with staff to developing ideas that make Toronto High a better place to be.



The Multicultural Ambassadors attended a conference last term and this is what they had to say:

“At the end of last term, Carla Hill, Kulka Paulson, Matt Christensen, Callum Tracy, Grace Banks and Aleesha Watson collectively known as your ‘Multicultural Ambassadors’, participated in a programme run at Newcastle University titled “Doing Diversity Differently” along with students from the broader Hunter and Central Coast Regions. The day proved to be extremely enlightening, as we learnt first-hand the various and severe difficulties experienced by refugees and migrants from students studying at the University. Mini workshops were conducted throughout the day, helping us explore fun and practical ideas which we can implement in our school community to raise awareness of cultural diversity and its benefits as well as removing any inaccurate stigmas or misinformation concerning multiculturalism in general. It was an excellent day, and we are excited to work in our new roles with you throughout the remainder of the year.”



Aleesha Watson”

Things to look forward to

Refugee Week Celebrations 16th –
22nd June

SRC Dance 23rd July

*Doing Diversity Differently Conference
Kath Fotheringham*

UNIFORM - ALL UNIFORM ITEMS TO BE PLAIN COLOURS WITH NO PATTERNS OR WRITING.

It is the policy of the School and the Community that all students wear a uniform.

Boys Years 7 – 10

- School grey trousers or shorts (must be tailored, dress style, not knit fabric). **Shorts length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee.**
- White socks.
- Light blue regulation shirt
- Navy jumper or sloppy joe – NO HOODIES
- Black fully closed leather shoes (no holes or mesh tongues)
- All navy track suit – **Sport Days only ie Tuesday**

Boys Years 11 – 12

- School grey trousers or shorts (must be tailored, dress style, not knit fabric). **Shorts length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee.**
- White socks.
- White button up shirt – No Polo
- Year Jersey/Black top – NO HOODIES
- Black fully closed leather shoes (no holes or mesh tongues)

PE & Sport uniform

- Navy shorts
- Navy tracksuit (**Tuesdays only**)
- Red THS collared polo sport shirt
- White socks
- Sport shoes – not slipper style, no flouro shoes

Girls Uniform Years 7 – 10

- Regulation pleated skirt in Cleo Crestaline Fabric No 7093. **Length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee.**
- School navy shorts (must be tailored, dress style, not knit fabric). **Length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee.**
- Pale sky blue blouse with Peter Pan collar
- White socks, or black pantihose
- Black fully closed leather shoes (no holes or mesh tongues)
- Navy Regulation cardigan / Navy jumper / Navy sloppy joe – NO HOODIES
- School navy slacks– Not cargo
- School navy tracksuit – **Sport Days only ie Tuesday**

Girls Uniform Years 11 – 12

- School grey pleated skirt. **Length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee**
- School grey shorts (must be tailored, dress style, not knit fabric). **Length must be no shorter than 7cm above the knee.**
- White blouse with a Peter Pan collar
- White socks, or black pantihose
- Black fully closed leather shoes (no holes or mesh tongues)
- Year jersey or black jumper– NO HOODIES
- School grey slacks – Not cargo

PE & Sport uniform

- Navy shorts
- Red THS collared polo sport shirt
- Navy tracksuit (**Tuesdays only**)
- White socks
- Sport shoes – not slipper style, no flouro shoes

NB. Uniforms are available from our Uniform Shop

TORONTO HIGH SCHOOL
Art / Technology / Science Departments
Shoe Policy

Enclosed leather shoes must be worn at all times during Practical Lessons

Leather Boots



Leather Shoes



The leather shoes are not to have perforations and the tongue must not go into the shoe.

These shoes **ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE** under any circumstances in any risk assessed practical lessons.



If the correct footwear is not worn, you will be set an alternate written task to be completed by the end of the lesson. It will be completed in a 'safe-zone' designated by your teacher.

If there are financial reasons for failing to comply, please contact the school.

There will be consequences for choosing not to wear the correct footwear. Your teacher will record it and after 3 times, a letter will be sent home and after-school detentions will be given. Phone calls will also be made home to parents.

Head Teachers:

Creative Arts, Technology & Science Departments

***PLEASE NOTE:**

MANDATORY – WORKCOVER LEGAL REQUIREMENT RE WH&S

It is mandatory that students carrying out practical activities using chemicals or equipment in schools wear **enclosed leather footwear**. Sandals, open footwear or high heeled shoes **must not be worn** in workshop areas or laboratories.

Welfare

Samaritans 'Reconnect'

Reconnects goal is to work with young people and their families on what is important to them, the service works on the premise that everyone goes through tough times and sometimes young people and families might need a hand.

Reconnect services aim to provide a range of supports to young people aged between 12 and 18 who could be at risk of homelessness, or who want some assistance with their family, school and peer relationships.

Reconnect can provide assistance with things like:

- Counselling
- Improving relationships
- Mediation
- Challenges in their lives
- Group programs
- Goal setting
- Connecting with education/work



Reconnect is a voluntary service that is FREE & confidential for young people aged 12-18yrs, caseworkers are able to meet with young people and their families or with young people one on one in their local area. A worker is linked to each young person to help in sorting things out with their family; connect them with training and employment services; help them to stay in school when it gets tough; provide income support and find somewhere safe to stay if necessary.

Samaritans Reconnect Services can be found at **Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens**. For assistance and referral call **YouthDirect 1800 171 800** Or Reconnect on 49221538 for more information

If you think your child may benefit from this service please speak to one of our welfare team and we can provide you with more information and assist with the referral process.

NEW COUNSELLING SERVICE IN TORONTO FOR THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

This is just to let you know that we've commenced a **Counselling Service**, for the **Aboriginal community**, at the Toronto Aboriginal Child & Family Centre.

Counselling is provided every Monday morning from 9am to 12.30pm. You might like to book a time. The service is **confidential** and **free of charge**. I am able to see individuals, couples and families.

In counselling, the things people often want to talk about are relationship difficulties, reconnecting with family members, stress, parenting, grandparenting, grief & loss, family conflict, separation, communication issues, conflict or domestic violence.

Call Chris on **49 401 500** if you'd like to find out more about how it works, to make a time to talk, or make a referral for someone else. Regards, Chris

Relationships Australia

from the Careers Desk

Newcastle Career Expo this year will again be held at the Newcastle Jockey Club on Friday the 24 of May and has proved to be a worthwhile event with 150 Year 10 - 12 students having the opportunity to attend and gain valuable hands on knowledge of jobs training and Careers. The Expo will have on show Newcastle and Sydney Universities, TAFE NSW, Private Colleges and many employers such as Defence, Building and Trade options. There will be a charge of \$5 per head to pay for entry and \$5 per head for the bus in and return paid by THS. Application forms are out now for students who will be requested to return a permission slip and pay for the event at the front office.

Jobs Info is still being emailed out to all students in Years 10 to 12 and sometimes I include Year 9 if there are suitable casual jobs. Parents should encourage their children to check these emails on the DET Portal which all students can access at school and at home if they have a computer with internet capabilities. They are generally sent on Mondays and I also include training courses that suit our students' needs. Several times a year I send out information on resume writing with 5 basic samples available to be easily modified for the individual. I can also assist with cover/introduction letters when required. This time of the year Universities and companies are offering scholarships definitely worth a look.

Tax File numbers can be applied for by picking up the form from the Career Office completing it and returning it to the Careers office, a Tax File number is required for any type of paid work. These are also required for some benefits through Centre Link. The forms provided through school are modified and do not require your birth certificate to be sent to the Tax Office, this makes the process faster and easier.

Sunrise Rotary Profession Mentoring Day for Year 11 Students 6/June this day is has been organised to provide our Year 11 students with some options other than the more trade type areas which we cover well at THS in Year 10 such as Try-A-Skills, Defence Force and the Career Expo. The ladies and men from Sunrise Rotary will talk to small groups of students about their specific areas of interest. The type of areas that will be addressed will be:-

- **Business Management**
- **Accounting**
- **Law**
- **Medicine**
- **Engineering**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Local Government**
- **Commerce**

Plus many more areas and students have been asked to request areas that may suit their needs. Mentors will discuss educational requirements, University life, career expectations and directions. There are some very interesting stories that we hope will inspire students and maybe provide some career directions. It is hoped this will be an annual event on the THS Career Calendar. Please encourage your Year 11 student to get involved it is free and should prove worthwhile.

Try-A-Skills is on again this year the 21 of June and Year 10 students will be invited to apply for one of the 35 positions available. This year it will again be on at the Newcastle Jockey Club which is a large venue that can accommodate the many students that attend from all of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie schools.

This event gives students interested in a trade the opportunity to try different areas and hopefully gain some career direction. This event is aimed at students that are keen to leave school after completing Year 10 to start a traineeship or an apprenticeship.

Newcastle University School Visit Day 27/July Year 12 students will be invited to attend this very informative event, there will be more info to come or have a look at the Uni's WEB Site. Students are invited to tour the University and talk to staff and guides on the day a must attend for students thinking of attending University.

A reminder that students can come and see me to discuss career ideas including subject selection for their specific area of interest this is important especially for Year 10 students selecting subjects for their HSC years.

Thanks that's all for this month,
Trevor Connell
Career Adviser



**Match your savings for school costs,
dollar for dollar, up to \$500.**

You may be eligible if you have:

- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- some regular income from work (you or your partner).

**Contact Cynthia Culhane, your local Saver Plus Worker:
02 4927 8385 / 0418 699 646 or
cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au**

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Newcastle by The Smith Family.
Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

ROTARY AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND STUDENT EXCHANGE 2014 PROGRAM EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN

This program is designed for 14-16 year old students (In Year 9 or 10 in 2014) to experience a true 'exchange' with a family in New Zealand. Local Students are matched with a New Zealand student and the Australian student will attend school in New Zealand during Term 2, 2014. Both students then return to Australia and attend school here for Term 3, 2014.

The students' family hosts the NZ student and includes them in their normal family life. This is an exciting way to experience another culture with the support of Rotary.

More information and expression of interest forms can be found at www.ranzse.org Expressions of interest close **30 June 2013**

Student Exchange Program

WEP – World Education Program is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students.

WEP is offering 2 \$3000 scholarships towards student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014. Find out more!!

Visit www.wep.org.au
Call 1300 884 733



DRIVING SCHOOL

Female Instructor

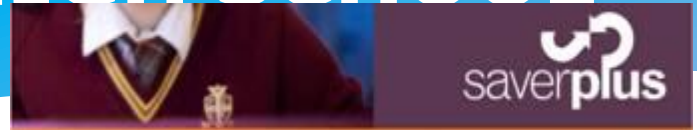
- * Special attention given to Nervous Students
- * Work with Parents for more effective outcomes
- * Teach to drive safe NOT just drive
- * Automatic Lessons in Toyota Camry Altise
- * Pick up and drop off - Home, Work or School
- * A 1 hr structured lesson entitles you to 3 hrs in logbook

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Would \$500 help you pay for
school uniforms, books or a laptop?

Match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar,
through Saver Plus.

The Smith Family is looking for new
participants in your local area.

You may be eligible if you or your partner have:

- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular income from work.

Contact Christine or Cynthia, your local Saver Plus Workers:
4927 8385 or christine.buckley@thesmithfamily.com.au /
cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au.

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and
is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

GLEE

club

Louise Wilkinson



Present this flyer to receive
your first class
absolutely
FREE!

Australia's Premier Performance Class

**A one hour high energy class
combining dance and vocals!!!**

Dance | Stage technique
Lead vocals and "Pitch Perfect" harmony training
Performance and recording opportunities for every student

Private vocal tuition available on request

AGE GROUPS

Petites 3-5years
Juniors 6-8 years
Intermediates 9-12 years
Seniors 13-18 years

**NEW
venue
Cardiff**



Like us on

Facebook facebook.com/Glee.Club.Oz

Email us for an information pack and timetable - info@gleenewcastle.com.au