PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome back to all parents and students for the 2013 school year after a well-deserved Christmas vacation. A special welcome to our Year 7 who have quickly settled into high school in a calm, responsible and enthusiastic manner. I feel confident that they will make a very smooth transition to High School under the excellent leadership of their Year Advisor Ms Emma Northam. I have received very positive feedback about their orientation camp held at the school hall during week 2. So much has happened so quickly. I have mentioned the Year 7 camp. Year 12 have already visited Universities in Canberra, Wollongong and Sydney. Boys Cricket teams have also been active as we settle back into what is expected to be a most hectic term. School photos have also come and gone and the swimming carnival is scheduled for next week on Friday February 22nd. I encourage our students to enjoy a wonderful day by competing to the best of their ability whether they are competitive or social swimmers. Of course students are encouraged to dress in their house colours and are strongly advised to drink lots of water and protect themselves with sunscreen.

Religious education has already commenced for students in Years 7 and 8. I am impressed with the excellent work of our Scripture teacher David Hayward and strongly advise all students to participate. If however, you prefer that your child does not attend Scripture lessons, please provide a note.

I am particularly pleased with the settled nature of the school as we get down to business and the presentation of students in full school uniform. I thank parents for their support. Student invoices will be mailed home within the next few weeks. Thank you to the families who have promptly paid as this facilitates the use of the resources which are in constant need of supplementation. The challenges for small country schools is to access sufficient funding to sustain and support student learning and to overcome the issues associated with education in isolated locations.

The first P&C meeting was held on the 12th February at the RSL. All meetings are scheduled for this venue for the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 pm. They are not a long meeting but give parents considerable insight into the running of the school and the issues that we are confronting. I welcome all new and old parents to join with us at these meetings and promise that you will not be asked to become involved in fundraising or compelled to join a committee. It is a good opportunity to meet staff and other parents and discuss issues that may be effecting your child’s education.

For those not aware, we have available to any parents the ability to email you our Newsletter which we aim to produce three times a term. The Newsletter is attached to our Website as well, but if you wish to have an electronic version please supply your email details to the front office. I am sure that 2013 will be an exciting and challenging year for all of us and I strongly encourage all students to make the best possible start to the school year. They will do this with your support by being thoroughly prepared with books, uniform and equipment, by being punctual to lessons, engaging appropriately and by diligently completing on time all homework and assignments.

DAVID HARRIS

School Website
The school website is constantly being updated with new photos, calendar dates and information. Visit forbes-h.school@det.nsw.gov.au to find photos and information about our wonderful school.
The Science and Agriculture Faculty would like to welcome everyone back for a new year of education.

With the departure of Ms Isaacs at the end of last year to teach in Cambodia, we are happy to welcome Ms Cassilles to the Science department. Ms Cassilles comes to us from the Riverina where she taught in Wagga. She is a specialist Chemistry and Physics teacher and complements well the skills of the rest of the faculty.

Students have commenced the year in a conscientious manner and have settled into their 2013 routine well. They are to be commended for the way in which they are conducting themselves displaying respect and responsibility. It is hoped that all students will complete the year to the best of their ability and participate fully in what Science and Agriculture has to offer.

There are a couple of housekeeping issues to be mentioned as this is the first newsletter. These relate to footwear and assessments.

**FOOTWEAR:** Students are to be reminded of the need for fully enclosed leather footwear in both Science and Agriculture before they can be included in the practical components of the courses, this is a Workplace Health and Safety Issue. The requirements of the Board of Studies is that practical work is included in all Science and Agriculture courses. Those students who are unable to take part due to incorrect footwear will be deemed to have not met the requirements of the course. This in turn may jeopardise the award of the RoSA or HSC. For the majority of students this has not been a problem.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Please be aware that all year 7 - 10 Science students will be required to complete an assessment task this term. These are take-home assignments. If any student has difficulty accessing printing or internet, the library is available every lunchtime for students. Additional help can be obtained from their teacher during lunchtime as long as the student has not left the task until the ‘last minute’.

Teachers are located in the Science Staffroom at lunchtime which is located at the back of the library building. Please note that late submission of assignments with no valid reason, will result in a mark of zero. Years 9-12 need to submit late assessments with a completed illness/misadventure form (available from the front office). This a Board of Studies requirement for the RoSA and HSC. Year 7-8 will require a note from home signed by a parent or guardian. If the reasons are deemed valid, no marks will be deducted for lateness.

It is hoped that we can all work as a team to provide the best educational opportunities for all students.

**NEW SPORTS SHIRTS**
The response to the new sports shirts has been overwhelming and they look fantastic. There have been numerous positive comments from members of our local community. Thank you to the 2012 Student Representative Council for the design, you have picked a winner. Unfortunately some sizes are no longer in stock but an order has been placed on the priority list with our supplier and students and families will be notified as soon as the new stock arrives. If you would like to pre order a shirt to avoid disappointment please bring payment to the school office and the ladies will take your order.

**P&C REPORT**

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS**
The P&C Christmas raffle was drawn at the Major assembly on the 14th December 2012. The book sellers prizes were won by Miss Northam (Scrapbooking Kit donated by Bernardi’s IGA & Discount Daves) and Tye Stewart (Playstation II also donated by Bernardi’s IGA & Discount Daves). The major prize – a Sumsung 40” LED Flatscreen Television supplied by Retravision Forbes – was won by Isaac Stewart. The Stewart family got a great early Christmas present. Thank you to everyone who supported this raffle and to the businesses that donated and sponsored the prizes.

**EASTER RAFFLE**
The Annual Easter Raffle tickets are now on sale with tickets just $2.00 each. The P&C rely on donations for the success of this raffle. It would be appreciated if every family could donate some Easter Eggs, Soft Toys, Baskets or Easter Sweets. All donations should be left at the school office by Friday 22nd March so that prizes can be organised. There will be book sellers prizes up for grabs so if you require extra books please collect them from the school office. All raffle tickets sold or unsold need to be returned to school by Wednesday 27th March as prizes winners will be announced on Thursday 28th March.
YEA R 7 2013 = 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS
It has been an exciting start to 2013 for the Year 7 cohort. Not only have they started high school, learning to follow a timetable and find their way around the campus – they have begun this journey with an exciting new tool, an iPad.

Thanks to a grant from North Parkes Mines, we have been able to implement an iPad program for all year 7 students. Both students and staff were able to purchase an iPad at a subsidised price with the expectation that iPads will become an integral part of the Year 7 curriculum.

The roll out of this program began last year as staff underwent significant professional learning to ensure the iPads would become an effective learning tool. With staff prepared it has been with great excitement that Year 7 were presented with their new iPads on Friday of Week 1.

This initial period of the iPad program has been heavily centred around setting the devices up correctly and educating the students on how to use their tablets effectively. The students have a list of prescribed apps they are expected to have installed on their iPads and which will be used across all subject areas. The focus of these apps is to provide a platform for project-based learning and staff look forward to helping Year 7 to discover, create and problem solve using the iPads in their classrooms. At Forbes High School these 21st Century Learning skills are highly valued and considered integral to the future of education.

All students have undertaken iPad lessons throughout Week 2 in order to establish the foundations of correctly using their devices. These lessons have included using the iPad as an organisational tool as well as how to use the apps Evernote and Educreations.

It will be exciting to see our iPad pioneers in action in 2013.

2013 NSW SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM (MISSING INFORMATION)
The NSW Ministry of Health has been informed that a small number of Parent Information Kits which contain forms for parents to read and sign for school vaccination may be missing important information.

These kits will be distributed soon. When you receive the pack please check that all information is included in the Parent Information Kits:

Parents of Year 7 female students should receive a pink Year 7 Girls envelope that includes a checklist, privacy statement and 4 Consent Forms and Information for you and your child sheets for:
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (pink)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa) (blue)
- Hepatitis B envelope (green)
- Varicella (chicken pox) (yellow)

Parents of Year 7 male students should receive two envelopes:
- A blue Year 7 Boys envelope that includes a checklist, privacy statement and 3 Consent Forms and Information for you and your child sheets for:
  - Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa) (blue)
  - Hepatitis B envelope (green)
  - Varicella (chicken pox) (yellow)
- An olive green Boys Human Papillomavirus (HPV) envelope that includes a Consent Form and Information for you and your child sheet.

Parents of Year 9 male students should receive an olive green Boys Human Papillomavirus (HPV) envelope that includes a Consent Form and Information for you and your child sheet.

If all the information is included and you would like your child to be vaccinated, please read the Information for you and your child sheet, sign the Consent Form and return the signed Consent Form to your child’s school. If you do NOT wish your child to be vaccinated, do NOT complete or return the Consent Form.

If any information is missing from your Parent Information Kit, please contact your child’s school immediately and a replacement Kit will be provided.

Thank you
Forbes High School would like to acknowledge the on going support of our student programs from Woolworths Supermarket and North Parkes Mines. Without these partners many programs at Forbes High would not run.
**ATAR EXCURSION 2013**

On the 6-8\textsuperscript{th} February, Forbes HS Year 12 students attended the annual ATAR excursion. The excursion is designed to give the students an insight into the range of University options available to them, including accommodation options.

The first day was spent visiting Charles Sturt University campuses at Orange and Bathurst. The visit included a tour through the new Physiotherapy Faculty at Orange CSU which is regarded as the best in the state along with the new Dentistry buildings. Students then went on to Bathurst CSU and were guided through the Sports Science and state of the art Paramedic facility. At the conclusion of the CSU visits the group travelled to the University of Wollongong and their accommodation at Weerona College.

The University of Wollongong organise a discovery day each year so that aspiring students can spend a typical day at University attending lectures according to their area of interest. The day begins with inspiring addresses from current and past students, followed by 5 lectures delivered by academic staff.

After lectures the excursion continued to Sydney University, an historic and much larger University hosting around 40 000 students. Accommodation was provided by Sancta Sophia Residential College. This final destination included a tour of the grounds and buildings of this beautiful university campus.

**YEAR 7 CAMP**

On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th February, 2013 Year 7 students of Forbes High School came together for a 2 day camp that was held in the school Hall. Students participated in a range of activities including iPad training, hall games, visual arts and a visit to the town pool. Peer Skills leaders from Year 11 and 12 also assisted in the running of the camp and helped run many of the activities. Their help was invaluable and the Year 7 students enjoyed getting to know some of the senior students of Forbes High School.

A big thank you to Damian Byrne, Kerrie Sharpe, Trudi Weyman (youth worker), Marilyn Holstein, Karen Norris, Joy Russell, Natasha Herbert (Centacare) and Rex Barton for their assistance in the smooth-running of the camp.
LEARNING AND SUPPORT – with Mrs Flannery
Forbes High School has many opportunities for Learning and Support. This ranges from special needs support to gifted and talented education. If you would like to know more about the programmes listed below please contact Mrs Jackie Flannery on 68522666.

Peer Tutoring: Year 7 students are paired with a Year 10 Reading tutor during DEAR each morning. The tutors are trained through Forbes TAFE to help improve the Year 7 student's Literacy Skills. This year every Year 7 student will be able to participate in Peer Tutoring for a minimum of one term.

Lunchtime Assessment Help: Second half of lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday there will be help available for student assessment tasks. There is no need to book, just come to the library with your assessment task. This is available to all year groups.

Senior Study: Mrs Flannery will be hosting Senior Study during sport on Wednesday afternoons. Come to the library for silent study or research. Remember to bring a note if there is a need to leave before school finishes.

Xsel – Western Region Online Selective High School: There are currently two students from year 8, 9 and 10 who participate in the Xsel Virtual High School. These students have English Maths and Science lessons online with their classmates from around the Western Region and have their other lessons with their friends at Forbes High School. The students have residential camps every term to meet up with their online classmates and teachers. Applications for Xsel open at the end of Term 2 each year.

Disability Provisions: Disability provision applications for HSC exams are now open. Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn't otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room.

The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student’s exam performance is affected. Provisions may include braille papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time or rest breaks.

Any HSC student with a disability recognised in the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005 may apply for disability provisions.

The definition of ‘disability’ in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) includes:

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychiatric
- Sensory
- Neurological, and
- Learning disabilities, as well as
- Physical disfigurement, and
- The presence in the body of disease-causing organisms

Australian Human Rights Commission
Note that the disability provisions only apply where the disability is such that a practical arrangement is required to reduce disadvantage in an exam situation. Disability provisions also apply to temporary and emergency-related disabilities. A typical example of an ‘emergency’ is where a student breaks their writing arm a week before an examination.

Students who become ill during an examination period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure appeal rather than a disability provisions application.

Students who wish to apply should see Mrs Flannery as soon as possible as applications close the last day of Term 1.

4TH R - RELAXATION
You’ve heard about the 3R’s...........Forbes High School is introducing a 4th R - Relaxation - How to relieve stress and reduce anxiety.

During 2013, FHS, in conjunction with the Mental Stillness project, a research and education program in association with Sydney University, we will be piloting a mental silence exercise program called 'Being Aware’.

The purpose of this program is to empower students and teachers to reduce their anxiety and to be able to find mental silence at will. Systematic and rigorous scientific studies have demonstrated that this has benefits to both physical and psychological health. Current evidence indicates that when used regularly this state of 'Being aware in mental silence' significantly reduces mental health risks and improves social skills.

MEGAN SKINNER WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE
Megan is a 12 year old Year 7 student who has taken it upon herself to pledge to Shave her Head to raise funds for Leukaemia Research by joining the World’s Greatest Shave due to a severe illness in her family. She is the nominated captain of the Forbes High Skinheads. Students and Teachers are invited to join this team and either shave or colour their hair while raising much needed funds for this vital research. If you would like to help Megan with her cause please got to www.worldsgreatestshave.com and either join the team or make a donation.
P&C MEETING REPORT
The first Monthly P&C Meeting was held on Tuesday 12th February with great numbers attending. It was fantastic to see some new faces and great to catch up with our regular members from last year. Many important issues were discussed including students, teachers, staff, school canteen and fundraising initiatives for 2013. The focus for fundraising is the upgrade of one of the school major assets – the school bus so please support the up and coming activities and offer assistance whenever possible.

P&C Subscriptions are now due and below is a subscription form for your convenience. Please complete your details and return with fee to the school office.

The next meeting of the P&C will be Tuesday 12th March at the Forbes Services Memorial Club. The meeting will commence at 6.15pm with the Canteen Committee Meeting, followed by the Annual General Meeting and regular Monthly Meeting. There will be positions on the executive becoming vacant this year so please come along if you feel you have something to contribute to this hard working group.

P&C membership subscriptions are now due. Parents are asked to pay subscriptions (minimum of $2.00 per family). This will ensure that parents have voting rights at P&C monthly meetings and the AGM. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Forbes Services Memorial Club commencing at 7.00pm. Please return this slip together with your family’s subscription as soon as possible.

Forbes High School P&C Membership Subscriptions- 2013

Parent Name/s:________________________________________________

Postal Address:___________________________________________________

Email Address:____________________________________________________

Would you like P&C information Emailed  Yes/No?

Community Notices

The Ultimate Ladies Night for International Women’s Day

Coming to Forbes Services Memorial Club
Friday, March 8th, 2013. 7.00pm till late
Admission $20, includes complimentary margarita, gourmet finger food, entertainment, deluxe pamper pack.
Chance to WIN a Mystery Makeover. For more information please call Anita on 0405 364 512.
Tickets on sale now at the Club.
FORBES TOWN & DISTRICT BAND
The Forbes Town & District Band is offering musical scholarships to musicians of all ages and standards, wanting to join their community band. The Town Band Committee is offering separate adult learners classes, if there is enough interest.

A new intake of learners and information sessions will be held on Monday nights, February 4 and Feb 11 2013 at the Town Band Hall, 165 Rankin St from 6pm to 7pm. Learners classes will start on Monday night Feb 25, 2013. Cost is $20 per year to join the Town Band, and there is a $50 per year instrument hire for those musicians who do not have their own instrument. Experienced musicians are very welcome at any stage during the year, and instruments are also available to hire.

Rehearsals are held on Monday nights, through school terms, for the Senior Band, at 7pm, after the Learners classes. Enquiries can be directed to Bandmaster Justin Screen 0419884775, or Robyn Kenny 0407235326 or call in to the Town Band Hall on Monday nights, between 6 and 9pm.

AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA
Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is pleased to announce we will be running our Recipe for Success - A Positive Behavior Workshop in Parkes from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th March 2013. It is a practical three day workshop for families of children with autism spectrum disorders and challenging behaviour that runs from 9.30am – 2.30pm. Please register on our website www.autismspectrum.org.au
The workshop is funded by the NSW Government and is free for families. Professionals are invited to attend with the family they are supporting. Professionals who wish to attend without a family will be charged $395.

CENTACARE
Centacare will be conducting Playgroups Term 1. All families are welcome but they are focused on Aboriginal Families – mums, dads, aunts, uncles, nans and pops. Families with children 0-5 years or those without children who may want to have a cuppa and a chat. Play group offers fun play and craft activities and opportunities to socialise and find out about access and support provided in the local area.
Forbes Public School Community Room
Every Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm
Parkes Cook Park Community Hall
Every Tuesday 10.30am – 12.30pm

FORBES ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP (AECG)
Forbes AECG meetings for first half of 2013.
Term 1
18th February - 11.30am – St Laurence’s Parish School
18th March – 11.30am – Forbes North Public School

Term 2
20th May – 11.30am – Red Bend Catholic College
17th June – 11.30am – Forbes Public School

FORBES JUNIOR RUGBY UNION
Forbes Junior Rugby Union Club will be holding their registration day for 2013 Saturday 9 February, 11am – 1pm at Rugby Club. Regos taken for Walla (U7,9 &11) & Juniors (U13,15 &17.) All welcome.
For more information phone 0438 520215.

FORBES JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
Registration Day Saturday 9th February 12 – 2 pm and Friday 15th February 6-8pm. Forbes Sport & Rec Club. Cost - $60 per player which includes shorts and socks. New players will need to provide 2 copies of their birth certificate. Enquiries Cameron Greenhalgh 0419 695 259

JOB VACANCY
Mezzanine is looking for a motivated and happy person to join their team for weekend work.
If you are interested please pop into the café and introduce yourself to Janine Whitfield.

AMITY DANCE
FORBES dance classes commencing Tuesday 12th February, Every Tuesday during school term. Celtic Dancing (Irish & Scottish) as well as Tap Dancing for beginners
4:00 - 4:45 Junior Celtic, 4:45 - 5:30 Senior Celtic
5:30 - 6:00 Basic Tap Dancing.
At the CWA Rooms, Welcome Street. For enquiries call 1300 871 952 www.amitydance.com.au

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
Forbes Shire Council and Spectacular Screening present “Screen on the Green” this Friday 15th Feb and again on Friday 22nd Feb. King George IV Park (corner of Battye & Lawler Streets – behind the Youth and Community Centre) will come alive when the “Brave” and “Hugo” hit the big screen. Admission is FREE with refreshments available during the evening.

Brave is a 2012 American computer-animated adventure fantasy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures. The film’s voice cast features Kelly Macdonald, Julie Walters, Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Kevin McKidd, Craig Ferguson, and Robbie Coltrane. In the film, set in the Scottish Highlands, a skilled archer named Merida defies an age-old custom, causing chaos in her kingdom. After consulting a witch for help, Merida accidentally curses her family and is forced to undo the spell herself before it is too late.

“Brave” will screen this Friday with “Hugo” airing the following week so keep these two dates free to enjoy a great family night and bring your own picnic and chairs.