PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Term 2 at Forbes High School remains a busy hub with many events and activities scheduled on our calendar. The opportunities that are offered at Forbes High School make it virtually impossible for a student not to find something which they can be involved in and be happy with beyond the normal learning environment of the classroom. From sport, excursions, dances, special events, parent teacher evenings and presentations it is very rare for Forbes High School to have a day where an activity is not providing extra stimulus to our students. Participation in activities provides many benefits for your children and I encourage all students to take up these opportunities.

We embed our PBL expectations of Responsibility, Respect, Honesty and Doing Your Best in all learning settings at Forbes High School. As a reward for those students who support these expectations, a range of rewards (emerge culminating in a place on our sought after rewards excursion which will again incorporate an excursion in a few weeks time to State of Origin 2 in Sydney. I know that a ticket to this blue ribbon event will be highly sought after by those students who embrace our PBL values. Good luck with the ballot for tickets.

Besides the range of sporting events and excursions that students have participated in recently, half yearly examinations for Years 11 and Year 10 have now been completed. Staff are busily marking exams and other assessment tasks and compiling half yearly reports which will be distributed on completion. Junior assessments are also being conducted at present which will form the basis for semester one reports. I have sent a number of letters of concern out to specific parents about student’s lack of work ethic, specifically those who fail to meet deadlines for assessments and homework. It is important that all assessment tasks are completed on time so that an accurate measure of academic achievement can be determined.

Attendance at school, being in class on time and coming prepared is essential to prepare fully for these assessment tasks, and I seek your assistance in ensuring that your child attends school every day, unless they have a valid reason such as illness. The legal responsibility of parents/caregivers states that you are required to explain in writing your child’s absence(s) from school promptly and within 7 school days. To assist with this process we use SMS or email messaging to inform you when your child is absent. Please support us in our endeavours to enhance student engagement and reinforce a positive work ethic. We cannot effectively teach those students who do not come to school regularly.

It has come to my attention that a few of our younger students have contracted head lice (pediculosis). It is not unusual for children to have this condition. It does not mean that a child is unclean or that he or she is not looked after properly. As head lice are transferred easily from one child to another as they play together, please check your child’s hair and scalp for head lice and nits (head lice eggs). If you find any lice or nits, it would be wise to check other members of your household and treat all members on the same day. The NSW Department of Health has advised that recommended products for treating head lice are safe, easy to use, relatively inexpensive and available from chemists. Importantly, ordinary hair care is the best way to help prevent head lice. Regular inspection of your child/children’s hair and checking for lice and nits are also strongly recommended. Students who contract head lice are advised to seek treatment before they return to school. In the health interest of all our students, I need your support on this issue.

Finally, can I encourage as many parents as possible to come along to our next P&C meeting which will be held on Tuesday 17 June. This meeting has been pushed back by one week to follow the Long Weekend. It will commence at 7pm at the Services club. You will recall that for some time past, I have commented on the small numbers of parents participating in the school’s Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C) and have encouraged parents to play a more active part in the association. Despite this, over the last year, attendance at P&C meetings has fallen away to only three or four parents, sometimes not enough to form a quorum. Without a quorum, which is the minimum number of members determined in the P&C’s constitution, the meeting cannot proceed, nor can the P&C make a decision, such as allocation of funds. This has serious consequences for the school, as it means that it will be much harder for there to be a parent voice in school decision making and planning, and in the merit selection of staff.

Kind regards
David Harris
Hey everyone. Just dropping a line to let you know what’s been happening at Forbes High.

Congratulations to Bronte Haynes for making it into the Gondwana National Indigenous Children’s Choir and Warren Baxter and Nic Mulligan for making it into the Under 15’s State Rugby league Trials. We are very proud of these three and would to like wish them every success.

We were fortunate to be able to attend a Traditional Fire Burning ceremony with Victor Steffensen over at Eugowra a few weeks back. We took some students from the BroSpeak group, which is a program designed for young Aboriginal students to make them become more confident with themselves and to become leaders in their communities. Four students from Forbes Primary School also came along. The students seemed to enjoy the day and thanks must go to Barry for organising the Excursion and to Mr West for driving the bus. There may be an opportunity to attend another later in the year.

On Thursday the 22nd May, we took a bus load of students over to Dubbo for a Careers Aspirations Expo, where the students got to talk to people from Charles Sturt University, Taronga Western Plains Zoo, University of Newcastle, Aboriginal Employment Strategy Ltd, Join Our Mob and Fire and Rescue. The students seemed to have gotten some ideas about what they would like to do when they leave school. On a personal note I actually touched a kid python for the first time. We even got in a bit of shopping.

We still have the Homework Centre available to all the students, which is on Mondays from 3.15 to 4.45 for the juniors and 4.45 to 6.15 for the seniors. We would encourage all students to make use of the centre, as it is a great way to get help with work or assignments. Jacqui Mitton is also available for our seniors.

AECG is happening every month at Yoorana Gunya at 11.30am. Our next meeting is the 16th June 2014, please feel free to come up and see what’s happening at your child’s schools.

NAIDOC Day is fast approaching again this year and the school will be holding their celebrations on the 17th September, so come on up and try some traditional meats and help celebrate the day. The town will celebrate theirs on the 24th July 2014.

Until next time take care.

The AbEd Team
Joy, Donna, Barry and Daniel

It has been a busy three weeks in Science and Agriculture with a new lot of chickens hatching from the Wednesday the 28th of May to Sunday the 2nd of June. These are Australorp crosses and mixed breeds and are for sale $5 unsexed.

Year 7 Science has been looking at gravity and how to counter its effects with an egg drop experiment.

Year 10 Xsel students have been doing experiments on DNA and genetics – creating DNA bracelets and looking at how traits are passed on through vegetable babies as a simulation. Year 9 Xsel joined year 11 Biology on their field trip to Lake Cowal on Monday.

P&C NEWS

Due to the June long weekend the next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th June commencing at 7.00pm at the Forbes Services Memorial Club. We encourage everyone to come along and join the P&C as this is an opportunity to find out useful and interesting information relating to our school and assist with planning for the future. We look forward to seeing you soon and please bring a friend.
SUPPORT UNIT NEWS
Semester 1 2014 has been one of the most deeply satisfying on a professional level. I have had the wonderful opportunity to see students achieve many personal goals. The year started off with a huge haul of fish during sport! Many students who had fished for a whole term last year without a bite, successfully caught fish this year. Our success at the lake was envied by many, especially such experienced fishermen as Mr Sherritt and Mr Hoy, Alexander Constable, Jake Bryant, Sarah Duncan and Jaydan Patterson all caught carp….Jaydan Patterson and Sarah Duncan also caught turtles which were safely returned to the lake.

Another first for the support unit was winning at the Cowra Eisteddfod. We won first place with our performance of Synchronised Swimmers to the music of “Chariots Of Fire”. Jake Bryant, Brendan Bush, Jared Martin and Alexander Constable gave a fantastic performance and mesmerised the judges with their synchronised moves and improvisation. We won $300 which will be used to buy resources for the support unit.

We also placed second for our performance “Pirate Dance”. Dezi-Lea Goodsell, Shenea Jones, Heidi Barnes, Sarah Duncan, Luke Turner, Alexander Constable, Jake Bryant, Brendan Bush and Jared Martin all participated with enthusiasm and skill.

The students also were awarded a Highly Commended for the dance “Firework”. Dezi-Lea Goodsell, Shenea Jones, Heidi Barnes, Sarah Duncan, Luke Turner, Alexander Constable, Jake Bryant and Jared Martin proved once again what a talented group of performers they are.

The students and I would also like to thank Mr Sherritt for driving the bus, Mrs Sharpe for her support and funny jokes and Mrs Neilsen and Mrs Parslow for their assistance with props, make-up and moral support.

MOCK TRIAL
On the 27th of May, students from both Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies took part in a mock trial at Forbes Courthouse as part of Law Week 2014. They experienced the heat in the courtroom as they experienced first-hand the repercussions of breaking the law.

The aim of the mock trial was to familiarise the students with the processes of the legal system, procedures and the inner workings of a court.

Binaal Billa solicitors Mary Dempsey and Katrina Sheen worked with Mr Harris and the legal students in the lead up to the trial, preparing them for what to expect and providing legal advice and information regarding the law for both the prosecution and defence teams.

The trial was for someone who had been arrested for violence, arguably unprovoked violence, in which the defendant had injured another person in a one-punch attack.

Students were given different roles during the trial; Tara Drew was the defendant, Cooper Carroll the victim, and Sarah Piper the witness, while Hannah Hunt and Samantha Trevorow were the defence team and Cassandra Bray and Lauren Fraser made up the prosecution. The rest of the students formed the jury, who found the defendant guilty.

It was a rewarding experience for the students, getting them out of the classroom and a great way to put the theory being learnt into practice.

CentraCares Men & Family Relationships Team
Surviving your Adolescents
2nd Workshop – Forbes High School
12th June 6.00-8.00pm
How to manage and let go of your 13-18 year old
Contact John Castles – 68501777 or jcastles@centacarewf.org.au

Thank you
Forbes High School would like to acknowledge the on going support of our student programs from Woolworths Supermarket and Barrick Gold, Lake Cowal Mine. Without these partners many programs at Forbes High would not run.
**The school website is constantly being updated with new photos, calendar dates and information. Visit [www.forbes-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.forbes-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) to find photos and information about our wonderful school.**

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**YEAR 7 THEATRE PERFORMANCE**
On Monday 19th May year 7 students travelled to Parkes High to view a theatre performance called 'Make your mark' organised by the University of Sydney. The performance followed the stories of three credible year 7 students who each explored and dispelled the myths and barriers associated with post-secondary study. 'Make your mark' is a high energy, interactive, magazine-style production that promotes the idea of staying in learning post-school as fun, interesting and accessible.

Students were able to engage and participate in the performance which included celebrities such as Mel B and Delta Goodrem. Our students came away from the experience with increased awareness of their options after school.

Thanks to the University of Sydney for organising the performance and to Miss Glynn and Mr Moore for accompanying us to Parkes.

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**YEAR 7 TRANSITION ATTENTION: Year 6-Parents/Carers**
Forbes High School invites you to attend an information evening on Monday the 23rd June regarding Year 6 to Year 7 Transition and Orientation for 2015 students.

Parents and Carers are invited to a school tour at 6.00pm at the front office. The information sessions will commence at 6.15pm in the Forbes High School Library. A light supper will be provided.

The evening will include information to familiarise parents and carers with Forbes High School and the transition process.

If you require further information please contact Debra Slack-Smith on 68522666 or [debra.slack-smith@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:debra.slack-smith@det.nsw.edu.au).

You may also be interested in looking at our school website at [www.forbe-h.school.nsw.edu.au](http://www.forbe-h.school.nsw.edu.au).

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**AECG MEETING REMINDER**
The next meeting of the Forbes local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group will be: Monday 16th June at Yoorana Gunya, Church Street, Forbes commencing at 11.30am.

**BOSTES APPLICATIONS**
Any Year 11 student who would like to apply to the Board of Studies, Teaching & Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Disability Provisions for the 2015 Higher School Certificate should see Mrs Flannery before the end of Term II.

**DEBATING NEWS**
A huge congratulations must go out to all Year 9 and 10 students who participated in this year's Premier's Debating Challenge. We entered two teams in this division. Team A consisted of Maddy Dukes, Morgan Penman, Sally Downie and Courtney Sinclair. This team showed considerable growth through the competition! Maddy Collits, Jessy-Lea Byrnes, Danielle Jenkins, Georgia Woods, and Nic Mulligan made up Team B. Team B remained undefeated throughout the competition and will be progressing on to the next round. Well done to all involved!

**FOR SALE**
Day old Australorp and Australorp X chicks, unsexed, $5 each.
Australorp X laying hens, 2yrs plus in age $10 each
Contact Mrs Eagles or Mr Byrne
68522666 – School hours
**SONG WRITING WORKSHOP**

On Thursday 29th May Maddi Collits, Chelsea Turner, Paige and Jake Ellison all travelled to Young to attend the Alan Cassil Singer/Songwriter Workshop. The four students were sponsored by local radio station 2LVR who generously paid the workshop fee for these students. The Workshop was of great benefit to our budding musicians who indicated that they learnt and great deal by attending and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thank you to Kerry Stevenson and 2LVR for sponsoring these students and Tim Ellison for transporting the students to and from the event.

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**TOM KEMP SHIELD**

Forbes High School travelled to Gilgandra on the 23rd of June to take on Gilgandra High School in the second round of the Tom Kemp Shield.

Forbes High would go into the match with confidence after a resounding first round win over Oberon High School. This confidence was short lived as Gilgandra flew out of the blocks to take a 10-0 lead after only 10 minutes. Forbes High School looked like they were still on the bus but managed to rally and a sideline conversion from Mathew Molloy gave the Forbes Boys a 16-14 lead going into the half time break.

A stirring half time speech from Mr West did the trick and the Forbes boys began to rumble. Mitchell Andrews was a one-man wrecking crew and was well supported by Jeremy Nicholson, Tom Williams, Matt Molloy and Harry Callaghan who all played extremely well.

Forbes were able to stamp their authority on the game and finished up convincing winners 38-14 keeping Gilgandra scoreless in what was a much improved second half.

Forbes now faces a much tougher match in the semi-finals where they take on the Canowindra High School team which is eligible to play 17 year old students due to their lower student population. Considering most of our players are 15 this will be a tough ask but we have every confidence that the boys will step up and do their School proud in what will be their last home game of the year, win or lose.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY HORSE RIDING CAMPS

JACKEROO RANCH

SCHOOL HOLIDAY HORSE RIDING CAMPS
SATURDAY 28TH JUNE – SATURDAY 5TH JULY
&
SATURDAY 5TH JULY – SUNDAY 13TH JULY

ENQUIRIES: MRS PATTIE HUDSON ON 63377173

Heather Mackinnon’s Retireme nt Morning Tea

Please join us in celebrating Heather Mackinnon’s Retirement from Forbes Community Health Centre as the Child & Family Health Nurse.
Families from past and present all welcome
Monday 16th June, 10.00am
Northside Chapel (Church in the Schoolyard)
Johnson Street, Forbes
Bring a plate of food to share (no nuts please)
For more information phone Forbes Community Health Centre on 68502233

Indigenous Family History Workshop

Presented by
Parkes Shire Library & ntscorp

Date: Thursday June 19
Time: 10am to 12pm
Venue: Covington Room
Parkes Shire Library

Enquiries contact Eileen Newport on 68612339 or eileen.newport@parkes.nsw.gov.au

Local NAIDOC Week Award

Nominations now Open
This is an opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians make to improve lives of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in our community or to promote important issues.
Winners announced at 2014 Community NAIDOC Event
Nominations close 5.00pm Friday 27th June 2014
For further information contact Anita Morrison on 68502355