Principal’s News

Congratulations to all students and staff for the terrific first round of the Rural Cup competition between Canowindra High and Oberon High at Oberon last week. The day was full of friendly rivalry and strong school spirit. The draw in the end was, I think, a fitting result of the competition on the day.

David Scott, principal of Oberon High asked me to pass on his congratulations to our students for their conduct during the event and also to the staff of Canowindra High for the professional way each organised and led the students from our school. I would like to add to that a big thank you to all staff who trained teams at lunch times and in some cases after school and also to Bronwyn Troy for her organisation of the event. This is another example of the way many staff at Canowindra perform above and beyond expectations.

The introduction of the new file server proceeded very smoothly last week. We were expecting a number of technical and other issues given such a large change-over but so far all has gone exceedingly well. Many thanks to Nicole Bugeja as leader of the schools Technology Team for her work ensuring a smooth changeover to the new enhanced system.

Next week on Friday at 2.50pm the Michele Berry Science Centre will be officially opened through a whole school assembly in the Jack Sherwin Memorial Hall followed by afternoon tea for visitors and invited guests. All parents and community members are invited to attend this exciting occasion. The new Michele Berry Science Centre has provided a modern and well equipped facility for students studying and teachers teaching senior science courses including Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science. Michele Berry was a highly respected staff member who supported student learning over many years at Canowindra High School and we are delighted to recognise her efforts and dedication naming our new building in Michele’s memory.

Next week on Thursday, students, staff and parents will celebrate student achievement throughout the term at an awards assembly in the Jack Sherwin Memorial Hall at 10.10 am. Students receiving awards at the assembly will be given a note to take home early next week specially inviting parents and other family members to the occasion. All other community members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

David Lloyd (Principal)

EASTER EGGS WANTED

We are still a long way short of our target of 240 Easter Eggs. These can be left with Sue at the canteen.

Please support our School Canteen and donate an Easter Egg.
Thank you to all of those people who have returned their permission notes for the Bell Shakespeare Workshop. There has been a very positive response and we are pleased with the level of support we have received. We encourage students to get their notes and money in quickly so as they can go into the draw for the laptop computer. If any student has not received a note they should approach their English teacher. Permission notes and money need to be paid by the end of the term so that we can secure the booking of this event. Thank you to KNET in Orange who have generously donated the computer in order to promote the arts in our school.

The last fortnight has been very busy with students completing assessment tasks and producing work of a very high standard. The year twelve Advanced and Standard English classes have both completed representations to demonstrate their understanding of the major concerns of the texts they have been studying. Most students have worked hard and demonstrated some very creative ideas in relation to their understanding of the texts.

The Advanced English Class was looking at Frankenstein and Blade Runner in ‘Texts in Time’ to determine how contextual concerns impact on texts that are produced.

The Standard English class has been looking at The Story of Tom Brennan as a study of ‘Into the World’ and how texts demonstrate issues that can influence a person’s view of the world. Both texts are highly relevant to the contemporary world. Blade Runner and Frankenstein both concentrate on Environmental issues and how scientific discoveries and advancement bring with it moral dilemmas and a reassessment of values. Tom Brennan focuses on a dreadful road fatality that has repercussions for a family and a community.

Some quotes from student’s work that demonstrate a deep understanding of their texts include:

‘My visual representation shows the similarities and differences between the texts. It consists of a collage of pictures on the wall of a box. The left side pictures represent Frankenstein, the right side Blade Runner. In the centre are pictures that represent themes that are present in both texts. Mary Shelley and those influencing her were Romantics who valued the imagination above reason and rational thinking. Romantics valued love of nature, interest in the past, mysticism, individualism and enthusiasm for the wild irregular or grotesque.’ Ashley Sevil

“The two texts differ in context but also have contextual similarities such as being set in periods of great change. For this reason I have included a sign saying “Change Ahead”. For Mary Shelley the main contextual concern was the Industrial Revolution that was occurring at the period that she wrote.” Lincoln Townsend
Debating

Canowindra entered into both the Junior and Senior Premier’s Cup debating competition and any student who is interested in being part of a debating team should see Mrs Healey as soon as possible.

The senior debating team is competing in the Orange Rotary Cup and has a debate against James Sheehan Catholic High School in Orange next Wednesday. If they win this debate they then go into the Grand Final. Members of this team are Molly Clements and Elizabeth Davis from Year 12 and Emily McTaggart and Jade Workman from year 11. We wish them every success.

A Start In The Arts

Congratulations to Emily McTaggart, Georgia Clements, Connie Edwards, Simone Edwards and Demi Grimshaw for their selection in “A Start in The Arts”. This program has been developed to give young Australians from remote and rural areas exposure to art based industries to allow them to discover possible avenues available to students after school. The students will be the guests of Charles Sturt University for a week where they will be mentored by university staff and Sydney Industry professionals. This opportunity will allow students to prepare a professional portfolio piece.

Writing Competitions

There are many opportunities for students to showcase their writing by entering into external writing competitions that not only give students a forum to write for but also offer great prizes. Any student who would like to enter a competition should see their English teacher, Mrs Merchant or Mrs Healey.

Student Work

Students in all classes have been producing some great work and we are very proud of their efforts. Below are two beautiful poems that demonstrate the high quality of work our students are producing.

Night by Cormac Lamond

The day is at another end
And so the night begins
The light is swallowed up by darkness
The stars emerge from the suns bright veil
The freezing chill air sweeps across the landscape like the Roman Cavalry
The moon illuminates the sky as it looks down at the land beneath its feet
The nocturnal creatures of the land begin to emerge
“Hoot” says the owl perched in the tree
Night is truly a unique, special time
Unfortunately like the day it must also come to a sad, sombre end.

The Creek by Talby Upton

The sun sparkles and glistens off the creek water
The sound of a nearby waterfall echoes the valley.
Massive boulders surround me.
They look as though they have been hurled from a volcano millions of years ago.
A gentle breeze whispers in my ear.
Birds fly overhead in a v formation.
They are heading south because winter is just around the corner.
Large pine trees lean and moan as a gust of wind comes past and dances the leaves along the ground.
The sun beams down on my face.
This creek is truly a beautiful place.

Term 1 Assembly

Is on Thursday April 7th
in the JSMH
at 10.10 am

All parents and friends are invited to attend.

Mosquito-borne diseases: information for school communities.

Recent heavy rainfall and flooding in NSW has led to high numbers of mosquitoes in some parts of the state. Mosquitoes can transmit a number of viral infections including Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus and there have been large numbers of these infections reported so far in 2011. More recently, a rarer but more serious mosquito-borne infection called Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) has been detected in western NSW. It is likely that the risk period may extend through until Easter.

Mosquitoes are most active around dusk and in the first few hours of the evening and again at dawn. Rivers, creeks, wetlands and recently-flooded land allows mosquitoes to breed and so people living near or visiting these areas need to be especially careful to prevent mosquito bites.

Recommended ways to prevent mosquito bites:
Cover up when outside and mosquitoes are active (especially around dawn and around dusk). Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting long pants and sleeves and covered footwear.

Use an effective personal insect repellent on all exposed skin. The best mosquito repellents contain Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin.
Re-apply personal insect repellent according to directions as protection wears off. The stronger the concentration of an insect repellent, the less frequently it will need to be applied to stop mosquito bites. Repellents containing low concentrations of DEET or Picaridin provide shorter periods of protection and need to be reapplied more frequently.

Mosquito coils or plug-in vapourising mats are effective when used indoors. Devices that use light to attract and electrocute insects are not effective.

Ensure houses are fitted with flyscreens on the doors and windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.

When camping, use flyscreens on caravans and tents or sleep under mosquito nets.

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**What’s On**

**Week 10**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29 March</td>
<td>Try-A-Trade</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30 March</td>
<td>Canteen RED DAY</td>
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<td>Thursday 31 March</td>
<td>Rugby League Trials – Blayney</td>
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**Week 11**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4 April</td>
<td>Yr 12 Semester 1 Exams</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5 April</td>
<td>Yr 12 Semester 1 Exams</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6 April</td>
<td>Yr 12 Semester 1 Exams League – Buckley Shield</td>
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<td>Thursday 7 April</td>
<td>Yr 12 Work Placement Term 1 Assembly</td>
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<td>Rugby League Trials – Peak Hill</td>
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<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Yr 12 Work Placement Opening of the Michele Berry Science Centre (MSBC) Last Day Term One</td>
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<td>8 – 17 April</td>
<td>Year 11 Outdoor Recreation</td>
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**Setting priorities and time management**

Time management skills can help students to juggle many commitments and interests effectively, and establish good habits for later life.

Your child can do the following to better manage their time:

- Create a daily ‘to do’ list.
- List goals and set priorities.
- Do most important things first.
- Always consider the question ‘What is the best use of my time right now?’
- Be realistic: new habits take time to develop.
- Set rewards for making progress towards goals.