News from the English Desk

This term has begun with a few changes in the English Department. We welcome Lyndall Ryan who has stepped into Meredith Healey’s shoes for the rest of this year. Mrs Healey retired last term and has taken up a position at Orange High School working with ‘Gifted and Talented’ students. We wish her well and hope she is enjoying her new role, I know she is enjoying not having to get out of bed so early!

This term is the final term for our Year 12 students who are working on their last module in English. The trials are in week 5, so it is important for them to be consolidating their study notes and practising essays and responses to unknown texts. The trials are worth 30%, so they are an important assessment to prepare for and the preparation can be utilized again for their HSC. Other year groups have been working on drama, poetry and Year 9 produced some fabulous poetry in their anthologies. The focus was on ‘Protest and Persuasion’ and students chose issues that they felt strongly about. Many students chose to present their poetry in sonnet form, which is particularly challenging as it has a distinct structure.

Below is a selection of poems from Year 9 students.

Drought by Becky Thornberry

A dry wind lifts lifeless leaves beyond sight
Clouds are soon replaced by unsettled dust
Rain has become a has been and a must
Broken hooves drag through acres of dead land
The drip...drip of a trough is now long gone
Happiness has been dried up with the dam
All knees are on the ground for it to storm
Stress has now become a ticking time bomb
A broken clock leaves an uncertain ‘when’
High hopes have vanished that were once strong
This drought has withered all happy men
It won’t be long till a life is at rest
It may or may not be for all the best

Betrayed True Love by Sitha Ncube

My eyes gazed at the wrinkled palms of the ocean
As I recalled the mellow wedding bells
Would this man really replace my other love potion?
The cursed vows we’d exchange under one’s spell
Where they to seal the deal of our love?
Nay they were just from pure lust and me being his user
Money is the national anthem that was the only reason I married the gov
Instead of my true love who wasn’t my abuser
My True love is the man I let slip through my hands like oil
He’s the one I thought we would never be apart
The thought that I had left him made my blood boil
Splash! Those were the ocean waves mimicking my crushed heart
Money is the nation anthem, it’s the reason we exist
Money is the national anthem, it’s the reason my Romeo was dismissed

Continued page 2
Principal’s News

It is great to be back at school after what seems an inordinate amount of time and to be able to get back into the ups and downs of everyday school life. I would like to publicly acknowledge the contribution of Mr Geoff Wooldridge (relieving Principal) and Mr Paul Williams (relieving HT-Maths) for their preparedness to step into the respective positions to ensure the smooth start to the term. It is reassuring when out of school for any length of time that such capable staff are available to work with our staff and students.

Over the last two weeks Rod Jones, Kim Edwards and myself have been involved in UAT testing in Sydney. This testing is a process where selected schools are invited to test new software packages being introduced into schools with the distinct purpose of determining faults and defects. As one of the 229 schools involved in the early release program for the new changes across the Department of Education we have already been working with the new financial system however the three of us have been testing the new Student Wellbeing program which is to be introduced at the end of August this year. A further opportunity exists for our school later this term to participate in the testing of the final program – Student Administration and Learning Management which centres on timetable, and behaviour management.

What they do is painful, and a putdown
But just think, Bully’s WILL get their comeuppance.

Year 8, 9 and 10 are exploring drama this term and enjoying the opportunity to look at dramatic texts and also to perform drama.

Year 8 are writing their own scripts and also monologues which they will perform in character. Whist this is daunting for many students, they learn to express themselves through their physical actions and voice whilst taking on another persona.

Year 10 are delving into the world of Shakespeare with a focus on ‘Macbeth’. They are realising how many of Shakespeare’s works are still incredibly relevant today as man’s flaws and aspirations, (being part of the human condition) have not changed over hundreds of years.

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris O’Brien on being last week’s Canteen voucher winner.

Neryle Smurthwaite
Principal
SRC NEWS

Ping Pong Competition

The SRC is running a lunchtime ping pong competition and we would like all students to get in and have a go. Your ping pong ability is not really that important, it is about having some fun. You could be rewarded if you dress up, for example, wear an eighties headband or something else. Although for those of you that are a bit more competitive there will be an end trophy.

The competition will be divided into juniors and seniors so it will be fair. So grab a mate and put your names down on the sheets up around the school.

Old Mobile Phone Recycling

The SRC are supporting the campaign to help save the mountain gorillas. Coltan is a valuable mineral used in the manufacture of some mobile phones. It is mined from the mountain gorilla’s forest home, destroying their natural habitat and threatening these endangered animals. We can make a difference by recycling those old mobile phones that you no longer need. There will be a box in the front office were you can recycle them and we encourage you to do so. Your generosity will take the pressure off increased mining helping the mountain gorillas to have a better survival rate.

So please take this opportunity to gather dead mobiles from friends and family and contribute to this worthy cause.

Electricity usage

It has been brought to the SRC’s attention that the electricity in the school has increased dramatically over the past year, as I am sure many people can relate to. We encourage all students and staff to be mindful of the amount of electricity you are using and here are a few tips to remember:

- maximise the use of natural light by opening the blinds instead of using the lights
- when not in the classroom turn off the lights especially during lunchtimes
- remember to turn off power points after use
- when using the heaters when warm enough turn them off instead of opening a window or door
- turn appliances off at the wall while not in use

The SRC will be doing an audit to ascertain areas within the school where we can improve. It is hoped we can pass on this information to enact some changes where we can be more mindful and monitoring the usage of electricity. Any savings will allow the school to put the saved money into improving our education and facilities.
Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Meetings provide an opportunity for you to formally meet with your child’s teachers and discuss with each teacher your child’s progress and achievements so far this year.

Parent Teacher Interviews are to be held tomorrow, Tuesday 30 July at the school hall between 4-6.30pm

Please note that meetings are by appointment and are limited to a maximum of ten (10) minutes for each teacher. This is necessary in order to give all parents equal opportunity in the time available. To schedule an appointment time, please contact the school office on 02 6344 1305.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Canowindra High School Transition Program

Each year Canowindra High run a Yr6 into Yr7 Transition Program. It will commence this week on Thursday 1 August 2013 from 10am to 11am with a Parent Information Session in the main staff common room followed by a tour of the school. Please pass this information on to any interested families.

Subject Selection Evening

Next Tuesday August 6 there will be an Information Session for parents of Yr 8 and Yr 10 students regarding elective subject selection for 2014.

Yr 8 students and their parents/caregivers are asked to make themselves available to attend this session which will be held in the JSMH from 5.30-6.30pm and following this from 6.30-7.30pm will be the information session for Yr 10 students and their Parents/caregivers.

What's On

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Assessments Due

Week 3A

Yr 12— Eng Adv 5, Eng Standard 5, Eng Studies 4, Hospitality 5, IT Auto 4
Yr 11— D&T 3, Legal studies 3
Yr 9—Photo & Digital Media 2

Week 4B

Yr 12— PDHPE 4
Yr 11— Exploring Early Childhood 3, General Maths 3, IT Auto 3
Yr 10— Food Tech 3, Music 3
Yr 9— IST 2, Music 3