

FRESHWATER SENIOR CAMPUS NEWS

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“Freedom to Learn”

Week 1, Term 2, 2008



Principal's Report

Last year I attended a presentation given by Mr Paul Brock, Director of Learning and Development Research with the NSW Department of Education and Training and was moved by some of the personal comments he made about our responsibilities as educators and wished to share them with you. In an extract from his book entitled 'A Passion for Life' he writes:

“Therefore, not just as a professional educator, but as a Dad, I want all future teachers of my Sophie and Millie to abide by three fundamental principles that I believe should underpin teaching and learning in every public school.

First, to nurture and challenge my daughter's intellectual and imaginative capacities way out to horizons unsullied by self-fulfillingly minimalist expectations. Don't patronise them with lowest-common-denominator blancmange masquerading as knowledge and learning; nor crush their love for learning through boring pedagogy.

Don't bludgeon them with mindless 'busy work' and limit the exploration of the world of evolving knowledge merely to the tyranny of repetitively churned-out recycled worksheets. Ensure that there is legitimate progression of learning from one day, week, month, term and year to the next.

Second, to care for Sophie and Millie with humanity and sensitivity, as developing human beings worthy of being taught with genuine respect, enlightened discipline and imaginative flair.

And third, please strive to maximise their potential for later schooling, post-school education, training and employment and for the quality of life itself so that they can contribute to and enjoy the fruits of living within an Australian society that is fair, just, tolerant, honourable, prosperous and happy.

When all is said and done, surely this is what every parent and every student should be able to expect of school education: not only as delivered within every public school in NSW, but within every school not only in Australia, but throughout the entire world.”

Parent Consultative Group

The inaugural meeting of the Parent Consultative Group took place on Tuesday April 1 and I have included the minutes of that meeting for your perusal. Meeting began at 7.30pm

1. A general discussion on the purpose of the Parent Consultative Group.	.Generally agreed that it was to act in an advisory capacity to the Principal. .Provide members for selection panel for school staff. .Administer funds available through parent levy.
2. Report from the Principal on the validity of data available to develop school improvement	.Value added data and State data were presented to the meeting and as was the Science

plans.	Department evaluation from 2007 results. .An explanation was given on how the data was given to drive improvement in each subject area and with each teacher.
3. A School Strategic Plan was presented for 2008/2010.	.The Principal gave a presentation on the development of the plan and the key aspects of that plan. .The key short-term goals for 2008 were - to raise the level of student commitment and work ethic to match appropriate student goals -to improve the relative performance of middle and higher achieving students -to confidently and regularly incorporate literacy practices in teaching and learning.
4. Allocation of funds in the Parent Trust Fund	.It was decided that \$7,500 will be spent on the purchase of new lockers and that Mr Pikardt will investigate whether more lockers will be required, and has permission to spend further funds on extra lockers. .\$1,100 was spent on the Welcome to New Parents evening. \$345 for P&C Association Affiliation Fee.
5. General Business	.Questions raised about availability of buses for students. .It was suggested that parents go directly to STA with specific complaints as the most appropriate way of getting action.
6. Impending Strike Action was raised.	.Mr Pikardt gave a brief explanation of why the strike was occurring and the organisation for the day.
7. Meeting closed at 8.40pm.	

Sport

Term one has been very busy in the area of sport with swimming carnivals, knock out teams and individual performances. Here is an outline of those:

Swimming

Our school carnival was held at Manly Swim Centre, with all competitors performing at a very high level. Special mention should be made of the following age champions –

16 Years: Girls – Natalie Liddell.

Boys – Fred Hodges & Chase McMillan.

17 Years: Girls – Kobie Russell & Rhiannon Lougher.

Boys – Erik Murray.

Congratulations to Year 12 who are leading the point score competition against Year 11 by 284 points to 135.

The Zone carnival was held in March and once again our competitors performed very well, especially Natalie and Kobie who were the age champions.

Knock Out Teams

Virtually all teams have begun their competitions with all teams performing admirably. Here is a summary of all teams:

Girls Soccer and Water Polo were eliminated in round 1
Girls Basketball & Boys Water Polo were defeated in round 2
Boys Basketball, Girls Touch & Girls Volleyball missed out in round 3

Our boy's soccer team have performed magnificently. Unfortunately, they were defeated by the very strong Epping Boys HS 2-1 in round 4. Congratulations to all players and to Phil Moss for his assistance in coaching the team.

The following teams are still alive in the KO Competitions: Rugby League, boys Volleyball and Touch have made it to the Regional finals.

Good luck to those remaining teams and congratulations to all students for their involvement and enthusiasm in all games.

Individual Performances

The following students have achieved outstanding performances in their particular sport:

Reuben Sawyer – selected in the Regional Volleyball team.
Bridget Wilson – Regional Softball team.
Kaia Parnaby – Regional, CHS and All Schools teams.
Molly McAleer – 1st in Handicap, 2nd Stroke and finalist in Matchplay competitions at Regional Golf.
Dan McComb – U/18 Australian Longboard Champion.
Becki Frangi - 3rd in the Australian Wakeboard Championships

Congratulations to these students, but I am sure that there are other students who have been successful and their performances should be highlighted. These names should be given to me so they can be acknowledged.

Other important events early next term are:

Zone Cross Country – Tuesday 27th May
School Athletics – Friday 16th May – An all school event
Zone Athletics – Monday 2nd June



For these carnivals to be successful, we need the support of all students. So be involved to ensure that we have the best teams competing at the Zone Carnivals. Year 11 especially need to be involved to catch up on the point score competition.

Trevor Campbell

Campus Sports Update

A big congratulation to the young ladies who have made the College Netball and Softball Squads. All Campuses are fairly evenly represented. The netball team is training on Friday afternoons at the Freshwater Campus Gym coached by Mrs. Vicki Maggs from Manly Selective Campus, a very experienced coach and well known in the Peninsula netball circles. This will be the lead up to their opening matches on the 31st March at Fisher Park, Curl Curl.

The Softball squad is preparing for their opening match which will be played at a date to be announced but before the 22nd March. This squad is being coached by the highly accredited and experienced Mrs. Rhonda Williams from Mackellar Girls Campus.

All is moving along very well with the Opens and U15 Rugby squads as well. A series of try-outs are currently in play. A strong turn out has pleased College Principal, Steve Pickering.

Overall the four teams representing the College should have a very strong showing in the next few months.

Netball Squad	Coach: Mrs. Maggs
NAME	CAMPUS
Amy Lever	Freshwater SC
Rose Carruthers	Freshwater SC
Jasmine Hornsby	Freshwater SC
Bronte Richardson	Manly SC
Jinny Dawson	Manly SC
Meg Twine	Manly SC
Jessie Grosser	Manly SC
Claire McAuley	Manly SC
Stephanie McDonald	Manly SC
Sophie Dutfield	Mackellar GC
Sarah Jewell	Mackellar GC
Katrina Lofthouse	Mackellar GC
Nicki Deegenars	Cromer C
Sarah Roberts	Cromer C

Open Softball Squad	Coach: Mrs. Rhonda Williams
NAME	SCHOOL
Letitia Vanderheide	Mackellar GC
Dani Murace	Mackellar GC
Jemma Hilliger	Mackellar GC
Kiarni Morgans	Mackellar GC
Nicole Deegenars	Cromer C
Jasmin Tonga	Cromer C
Bridget Wilson	Freshwater SC
Kaia Parnaby	Freshwater SC
Lauren Parnaby	Manly SC
Claire McAuley	Manly SC

More rugby news. The Opens and the Under 15's teams have had two strong College trial practices. The Open side trialled for the Zone Opens Rugby Team at Pittwater "Rat" Rugby Park on Monday, 17th March. It was a very good showing of both rugby quality and numbers by students ranging from Mosman High through to a host of students from schools on and around the peninsula. A big *thank you* to the parents and friends who were there to show their support on a very hot and humid afternoon. The second and deciding trial will be held on Friday 28th March at the same location. I think we can expect a very large College presence in this Zone Team. The schedule for the Open boys is getting very busy with a Friendly Game against a touring Canadian School on the 27th March at the Freshwater Campus. This will be a first for the College. Hosting touring sides in any sports is very rewarding for all involved.

The Under 15's performance at the trials has indicated that the College has great depth in both quality and numbers. Tuesday the 25th March will see a good old fashioned *Possibles* versus *Probables* hit-out. The squad will be finalised for our inaugural Buchan Shield team, and the start of a wonderful rugby culture.

Soccer news: There will be soccer trials for the after school Boys Peninsula Cup on Wednesday 26th March for the U15's hopefuls. For the Under 13's the trials will be on the following Wednesday: 2nd April. All trials will be held at the Freshwater

Campus at 4pm. This competition will commence in the first week of Term 2. This is a week by week proposition, so all students must be available for each match.

Any parent or Year 11 or Year 12 students wishing to gain coaching experience please contact Hugh Wood at the College on 99396942.

Northern Beaches Careers

Expo

A Careers Expo will be held at Miramare in Terrey Hills on Friday May 16. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to access essential career and tertiary information locally. All the major universities will be there as well as representatives from private colleges, industry and government agencies. For more information please come to the Careers Office. Students are expected to make their own way to Narrabeen for the athletics carnival after attending the market.

Melissa Penrose and Maryann Rogers

Upcoming Career Information Events to Attend

- NIDA – National Institute of Dramatic Art
Open day, Saturday 31st May
www.nida.edu.au
- KPMG Accounting Cadetship 2009 Information session,
Thursday 29th May 4-5.30pm
Tuesday 3rd June 5-6.30pm
KPMG, Level 15, 10 Shelley St, Sydney
RSVP required 1800 502 060.
- UMAT – Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test for medicine, dentistry and health science programs at university in 2009.
Registration opens in April.
One exam date only – 30th July 2008
www.acer.edu.au/umat
- GAP year 2009 applications due Friday 16th May 2008.
- Institute of Chartered Accountants
Cadetship information evening, 22nd May for yr 12 students and their parents, 4.30pm. More details phone 9290 5708.
- Want to travel to the USA? Love working with children and have some experience? Cultural Care Au Pair Information Meeting,
Saturday 19th April, 1-3pm, 824 George St Sydney.
Contact 9252 2977
www.culturalcare.com.au
- A Day in the Life of
 - Communication & Multimedia Designers, Sat 31st May
 - Public Relations, Event manager, Marketer, Communications & Media professionals, Sat 31st May
 - Hospitality Managers, Friday 18th AprilOne day seminars for students to explore what you do in these careers. Offered by the 'Think' Education Group (Billy Blue & APM) 10am – 4pm on the dates above @ cost of \$80 including lunch. North Sydney location
To register, phone 9492 3255 today.

Freshwater students making a difference on two continents – Africa and Australia.

Background

Since August 2004 students and staff at the Freshwater Senior Campus have been supporting the Hanga Vocational Training Centre in Tanzania, East Africa.



What is the Hanga Vocational Training Centre?

The Hanga VTC is a boarding school for young men and women, run by Benedictine monks in Hanga, a remote village in the south west of Tanzania. It began in 1979 with only two students in a masonry class and currently has an enrolment of 100 students. Girls have been admitted since 2002 and the first girls graduated in 2005.

Students can study a variety of courses such as carpentry,

masonry, tailoring, auto, electrical, joinery and plumbing. These are all four- year courses and students receive a national accreditation, similar to our TAFE certificates when they graduate.

The story so far

In 2004, Brian Leonard, who was principal of FSC at that time met Brother Fulgence Mluwili, principal of the Hanga VTC when he was accompanying a group of our German students to the campus's sister school in Kremsmunster, Austria. He was inspired by Brother Fulgence's account of what he was trying to achieve in Tanzania. Since that time the FSC and its school community has raised in excess of \$50 000 to support the Hanga VTC.

Eight laptop computers, printers and routers have now been installed in Hanga. A satellite dish has also been installed and the Hanga VTC is now one of the few schools in Tanzania that has its own website.

You may like to look at this site on:

http://www.hangaabbey.org/index_files/trade.htm



FSC has made a commitment to meet the ongoing costs of hardware maintenance and the broadband connection.

Funds raised have also been used to:

- buy a generator so that the power supply to the computers is reliable,

- support the building of the new girls' dormitories,
- buy materials for the upgrading of one of the boys' dormitories
- provide assistance for a number of students so that they can afford to continue their secondary education.

Where to from here?

The FSC this year has embarked on an ambitious project to have **solar power** installed in Hanga. The Hanga abbey currently has some electrical power in the wet season but very little power in their dry season that lasts for six months.

Our aim, through the support of BP Solar, is to raise sufficient funds to have solar power installed at Hanga by the end of this year. This will be a major undertaking that needs the support

of all of our students, staff and especially our parents. Students and staff are already well underway in planning for this major event. We are all very hopeful that the great majority of our parents will also get behind this wonderful project that will make such a difference to the lives of hundreds of young men and women in Hanga.

So how can you help?

Our first appeal to all of our parents is to ask you to buy an Entertainment Book through the school. All funds raised through these purchases will be directed to the solar power project. Books can be purchased through the school office for \$65.00.

Should any of our parents have ideas about how to support this project in other ways, please contact Brian Leonard on 0413 842 692.

Thank you all on behalf of the students of the Hanga VTC for your support for this project.

Brian Leonard

Deputy Principal's Report



Fortunately this year the majority of Year 11 has taken on board the advice we have given about the commitment necessary to succeed in the Higher School Certificate.

The interim reports have already been distributed and most students can feel happy with their beginning. There have only been a few students who began so poorly that they discovered the need to move to employment rather than gain a Higher School Certificate.

There is, however, another group who are struggling to come to terms with the demands of Year 11. For them this is a concern as the demands on homework and study will only increase from here. Successful students soon realise that the way life could be ordered for a Year 10 student cannot be maintained for a Year 11 student. The Higher School Certificate takes more time to achieve than a School Certificate and the student who does not realise this will fall by the wayside very quickly.

Some students will be interviewed by their Year Advisers or myself about their interim reports and/or an 'N' Award warning they have already received. Students ignore the advice and help they receive at their peril because the time between that and the review of position here will be very short unless there is an immediate change.

A reminder Week 4 of Term 2 is Year 11 Assessment Week!

Good Luck
Greg Lill

Young Women's Leadership Seminar

On Friday, 28 March 2008, two students, Jessica Ovidi and Soleda Hansen-Collins, were selected from Year 11 to represent Freshwater Senior Campus in a Young Women's Leadership Seminar which was held at the theatre at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Over 90 girls from all high schools in the state attended. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the many social, political and personal issues that affects women in leadership. Many independent and successful women talked about the future generation and what they had achieved in life. One of these women included

Miss Australia who talked about her experience in Fundraising and making a difference to the countries which are in poverty. This involved travelling over the world to help poor families seek medication. We then completed a leadership workshop where we were introduced to different girls from the other schools and worked together as teams completing activities.

Throughout the day we were inspired by all the participants and the leaders who encouraged us to aim for greater participation in public life.

Schools In Parliament

A group of eight enthusiastic Year 11 Legal Studies students were chosen to attend at a new annual parliamentary event run by the Law Society of NSW. The event was aptly named 'Schools in Parliament' and was aimed at providing students with the opportunity to learn more about our state's law-making process.

Below is the personal reflection of two students who attended at the event:

On Thursday 3 April 2008, we arrived at NSW Parliament House after an exciting trip into the city in an exclusive maxi-taxi. After a short introduction about the program, we were led into the beautiful Jubilee Room. We mingled over morning tea and shortly after we were identified as representatives of either The Government or The Opposition. We were then divided into various ministerial groups (Education, Health, Community Services, Roads and Transport, Finance etc.) and fiercely began preparing for the debate.



The topic we were asked to debate concerned a proposed Bill to increase the learning driving age to 18 years for females and 19 years to males. With The Government in support of the proposal and The Opposition against it, we spent the remainder of the day making new acquaintances and discussing our arguments. Late in the afternoon, we all headed to the Law Society building for a formal dinner attended by a large number of students, teachers and legal professionals.

The following day, we were directed straight into a large debate room. As The Government and Opposition feuded over the proposal by each dishing out solid and very persuasive arguments, it quickly became evident how important and detailed our parliamentary system is. After the debate, we expressed gratitude to the speaker and local visiting MPs and headed back to Harbord. All in all, it was an incredibly interesting and informative educational experience!

Tanoshikatta – It was fun Japanese Visit

Once again we at Freshwater hosted a delightful group of Japanese students and our warmest thank go to the incredibly wonderful host families who so generously welcomed these 12-17 year old boys and girls into their homes. Thanks go to the following students and their families – Zoe Cheleski, Erika Suyama, Silas Stacey, Jessica Harford, Joanna Vaughan and Katherine Bourne.

Despite some funny and awkward moments when language may have been only a small barrier, enormous fun was had by all and the tears shed at the moment of farewell bear testimony to the great success of the visit.

Thanks to all involved.

Barbara Herrmann



Year 11 Camp - Jindabyne



Deputy Principal's Report



Year 12 have currently completed their half-yearly exams. We have been very pleased with the good attendance of Year 12 prior to these exams and the positive commitment during the exams. All students need now to learn from these exams and work out a consistent study pattern

to ensure all aspects of their courses are covered.

Year 12 students who are doing major works need to have these projects well under way. If parents have any concerns about these please contact the teachers of these subjects.

A big thank you to the Year Advisers, Lin Strachan and Leanne Turner for organising the Year 12 Jerseys. They are a very smart design and look good on the students.

Please put the 16 June 2008 in your diaries for the Year 12 Parent/Teacher afternoon, 4.00pm-7.00pm, in the Gymnasium.

Dianne Marik

Fundraiser for Tanzania Project



Entertainment Books for Sydney North available from the school office.

\$65.00



Becki Frangi - at the Australian Wakeboard Championships