BATEMANS BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Beach Road
BATEHAVEN NSW 2536
☎ 4478 3600
Fax 4472 8173

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

VISIBLE LEARNING

We all have memories of a great teacher. Even if your experiences at school were less than satisfactory, there would have been teachers you appreciated more than others. You may recall someone who took a special interest in you, was heavily involved in extra-curricular activities or always made learning fun. You may be able to analyse it further and identify the specific characteristics of an excellent teacher. Thanks to educational research, those qualities are not only known, but quantifiable.

Professor John Hattie is the foremost authority on the factors that affect educational outcomes. He has spent much of his time “researching the research”, examining thousands of existing studies, some contradictory, to determine what actually makes a difference. Schools and teachers ignore his findings at their peril.

Hattie has investigated well over one hundred factors that influence student outcomes. Many of the factors relate to the student, the home and the curriculum, areas over which a school has little control. The size of the impact of these external factors can be huge, improving the rate of learning by 50%. Despite the role of these external factors, Hattie still reaffirms teachers’ capacity to improve student outcomes. Teachers are crucial agents of change.

Teacher attitudes and expectations make a big difference to achievement. Excellent teachers have several clearly observable behaviours. Contrary to some beliefs, in-depth knowledge of the subject matter is not a key factor in improving student achievement. Instead, excellent teachers find the most effective way to represent their subjects to their students. The skill lies in delivering lessons that build on prior knowledge, relate content to other areas and adapt to students’ needs.

Excellent teachers also establish trust with their students. The classroom climate should prioritise learning and allow students to make mistakes without fear of failure. This is reinforced with a passionate belief that all students can succeed. There is respect for all students, regardless of ability, and an understanding that each and every member of the classroom will progress.

Excellent teachers are skilled at monitoring learning and providing continual feedback. They use feedback during the course of the lesson as well as at the end of a unit. Feedback does not just come in the form of a test score. In fact, excellent teachers evaluate students in terms of wider outcomes that are not measured by test scores, looking to extend students over and above the limitations of the curriculum.

Hattie may seem like he is stating the obvious, but his findings are backed by evidence. Such findings need to be acknowledged. Modern schools and their leaders cannot afford to make assumptions about what works and what doesn’t. Consequently, you will find that key decisions at Batemans Bay High School arise from discussion based on research, not philosophy, tradition or bias. This applies to all areas ranging from the issuing of homework to the grading of classes. Furthermore, teachers are aware of the attitudes that are needed to help students succeed. As attitudes mature into values, which in turn shape actions, you have one essential element of great school.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
YEAR 11 BUSINESS PLAN CHALLENGE 2015

Congratulations to Mikaela Guymer for receiving a High Distinction, for the University of Newcastle, Year 11 Business Plan Challenge. Mikaela came up with a business plan that included marketing and finances and her business name was All-trades.

All-trades coordinated all the trades that are required for house renovations, from the electricity to the kitchen sink. The competition was statewide and only a handful of students received a High Distinction. Mikaela was credited for her high quality research for the business market in Canberra.

By Stella Cross
Photo by Mr Rowing

WAVES

Majestic creatures crashing on the shore
Roaring, stomping, triumphing, pillaging,
Ripples from storms a hundred kilometres away
Takers of life, givers of contentment.

Poem by Jack McFarlane
SOUTHERN BRANCH TRIALS FOR SEASON 2016

Trial with Southern Branch in November 2015 for the opportunity to make selection to play in the Football NSW National Premier League.

NPL 2 Boys (13-16yrs), NPL2 Girls (12-17yrs), Skills Acquisition Program (Boys and girls 9-12yrs) and NPL2 Women’s.

Please note all trialists must register via the website below, prior to attendance. Registrations on the day will not be accepted.

All Trials are held at South Nowra Football Complex (Mumbulla St, South Nowra).

Please view website for further details. www.southernnswfootball.com.au

Student Achievement

Student Achievement – Mia Talmadge Year 10
Mia is a model student, applying herself in each and every subject. She is one of a handful of students to be recognised for her achievement in every Key Learning Area this year. You may have read her recent report on the Noumea excursion in School Matters which she assiduously compiled even though she was unable to attend herself.
What’s On Term 4

Week 5
Monday to Friday
2-6 Nov      HSC Exams
Tue  3 Nov    Year 6 to 7 Transition Program
Thur 5 Nov   Swim School
Thursday to Friday
5-6 Nov      Creative Arts Excursion Sydney Year 11

Week 6
Tue  10 Nov   Year 8 Valid Test
Tue  10 Nov   Working with Horses Year 9 Agriculture Oaks Ranch
Thur 12 Nov  Year 12 Formal
Fri  13 Nov   P.S.C. Leadership Course

Year 7 SWIM SCHOOL (Sport)

Year 7 sport groups will be able to take advantage of our aquatics programme during Thursday sport. This is a compulsory part of the curriculum and ALL students are expected to attend.

Year 7 Dates:    Thursday, 5 & 19 November
                 Thursday, 3 December
Times:           11 - 12.40pm
Venue:           Batemans Bay Swimming Pool
Transport:       Bus
Cost:            $7 per week (pool entry and bus)

Community Advertisements

School Matters regularly includes community information and advertisements. The School does not endorse or accept responsibility for these activities. Attendance at or use of these services is at the discretion of the students.