PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WOW

Just wow. I am not often lost for words, and in this case, I am probably not the only one. I am of course referring to Saltwater, our latest outstanding school production which wrapped up on Saturday night.

If you have been connected with the school for a few years, you may recall previous productions such as The Journey, and you might even consider such productions to be the norm and typical of what you can expect at other high schools. Let me assure you that this is not the case. The students and staff have delivered something special, something unique, and something that would leave others who have seen or participated in the Schools Spectacular, Rock Eisteddfod and Big Gig in awe. Comparisons to Cirque du Soleil were not hyperbole.

I am proud for so many reasons. The talent displayed by our students in a variety of disciplines including singing, dancing, acting, puppetry and acrobatics was astounding. The sheer number of students involved was an achievement in itself. The work behind the scenes, not only in preparation and production, but in areas like catering, was diligent and unselfish. Saltwater gave Batemans Bay the chance to see the true faces of our students. It could only happen in a school where students were valued and learning was cherished.

Credit must go to Ms Sharon McCutcheon and Mr Geoff Perrem, the brains and brawn (in no particular order) behind Saltwater. They brought their vision to life in the least histrionic fashion possible and did so for no other reason than to share their passion for providing students with experiences and memories they will carry with them long into their adult lives.

YEAR 12

The HSC concludes on Friday, 6 November. After that, there is nothing that students can do to improve the marks they will receive on Wednesday, 16 December.

To put this another way, the effort that students put in between now and their exams will make a crucial difference to their final results. Year 12 teachers recognise that some students can make improvements of up to two bands during the last term of the HSC course. They are committed to using every last minute with their students to best effect, making lessons in all HSC classes meaningful, even if they have finished delivering the course content. Students regularly undertake revision and examination preparation by themselves, but only the most foolhardy would assume they can achieve the highest possible marks without the expert guidance of their teachers in their final weeks of school.

To ensure that no student is left with regret when December comes around, we have and are making our expectations clear. Students without classes at the beginning and end of the day can still continue to arrive at and depart from school in accordance with their timetables. However, there is no such thing as a “free” period. Students without classes during the day are expected to be studying during that time. If Year 12 students need to leave the school during the day, they must sign out through Ms Saunders or Mrs Rowing. We are not prepared for students to jeopardise their marks or successful completion of the HSC for the sake of a Quarter Pounder or a McFlurry. We have also opened the library after school for four days a week for the duration of the term, an increase from the usual two tutoring days of Monday and Thursday.

In a course like Standard English, one mark equates to hundreds of places in the rankings. Year 12 students should bear that in mind when the temptation to put trivial concerns in front of HSC study strikes in coming weeks.

Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
What's On Term 3

Week 3
Sun to Wed
26 - 29 July  Year 11 Snow Trip
Tue 28 July  Year 10 into 11/2016 Subject Selection booklet to be handed out
Tue 28 July  Parent/Teacher afternoon 4-6.00pm Hall
Tue 28 July  Year 11/2016 Subject Selection information Evening for parents - 6pm Library
Tue 28 July  Careers Market Moruya
Thur 30 July  South Coast Warriors - Gulaga

Week 4
Mon 3 Aug  Cultural Leadership
Tue 4 Aug  School Photos
Tue 4 Aug  NSW Junior Chess League
Thur 6 Aug  Catch-up Photos
Thur 6 Aug  Year 12 South Coast Warriors - Hanging Rock
Fri 7 Aug  u15 Girls Basketball - Bega Indoor Stadium

TREETOP WALK
On Friday, 17 July the Year 10 PASS classes travelled by bus to Shoalhaven Zoo to complete the Nowra Trees Adventure. We had to wear a harness and helmet, and learn how to properly clip ourselves onto the cables around the course. Then we spent a few hours climbing and zip lining, testing our balance and developing teamwork skills. The highlight of the day was when Jacomb got stuck in a tree.

Many students and a few teachers, overcame their fear of heights. Thrilling experience!
Thanks to Mrs Cameron, Mr Cameron, Mr Hall and Mr Aiken for a fantastic experience.
Congratulations - More photos from our fantastic production next week
YOU WIN ONE YOU LOSE ONE

Congratulations to the Junior Debating Team for their success in the Premiers Debating Challenge held in the last week of Term 2.

The team comprising of Lily Atwood, Leon Katsanis, Rhys MacDonnell and Molly Wilkinson completed two debates. They defeated Ulladulla High in the first debate and lost to Vincentia High in the second debate. The students debated the topics: that contacts sports should be banned for under eighteen year olds and euthanasia should be made legal.

It was extremely encouraging to see the skill and poise demonstrated by the four students. I was very proud of their improvement and teamwork. Unfortunately, the loss to Vincentia ended their involvement in the competition. Regardless, I hope that they continue their involvement in this highly rewarding activity.

Mr Pecovnik

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Wednesday, 19 August
6 - 7.30pm
UOW Batemans Bay Campus

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