PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

ATTENDANCE

The single best thing students can do to support their own education is to be in class. However, there are times where students are absent from school and, in cases such as ill health, should be absent from school. Parents may not be aware of the requirements of the Department and the Education Act when it comes to attendance. One such requirement reads: Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school.

This means that absences are automatically recorded as unexplained and unjustified after that time and cannot be modified subsequently. As attendance information is printed on school reports, and these documents can be extremely useful for employment and scholarship applications, I ask that parents make the effort to notify the school and explain any absence at their earliest convenience. If an error has been made, office staff can assist in rectifying the problem. We value accuracy as much as you.

RYPEN

For those not familiar with the RYPEN, it is a youth program that has been conducted by the local Rotary club for the past 30 years. It aims to give young people self-confidence and self-esteem, enhancing their beliefs in their abilities and talents. It is not about rewarding the naturally confident or those who already have leadership skills. Equally, it is not for young people with behaviour problems or other serious issues.

Run over a weekend, RYPEN is supervised by Rotary club members with the program being conducted by a range of volunteer speakers, facilitators, past attendees and Rotarians.

RYPEN targets students who are often overlooked for leadership or other programs which focus on personal development. Many of our students are already achieving great things, but the majority of students will never place first in a class, captain a team or represent the school as a student leader. Some just need an opportunity to discover their untapped potential, boost their confidence and develop self-belief. These are the young people who will gain so much from RYPEN.

Students between the ages of 14 and 17 who have potential, whether they realise it or not, should be directed to me for more information.

NEW SEATING

The new seating in Area A by the canteen is now complete. The project has taken a little longer than expected, but the end result will be appreciated by many. Thanks must go to those who have made this possible, including Bunnings for donating materials and manpower, Mr Street’s Hands On Learning group for finishing the job, and Terry Paranholien, a dedicated parent who spends much of his time on beautification projects around the school. I strongly believe that the physical appearance of the environment and the quality of the facilities make a tangible difference to how we all feel about our school. This in turn affects so many aspects of school life that it can ultimately affect the quality of learning. The new seating is just one example of how we plan to improve the environment of the school over the coming year.

Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
**What’s On Term 3**

**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

**Week 5**
- Tue 11 Aug: Year 10 Sydney Jewish Museum HSIE
- Thur 13 Aug: ELC Academic Challenge at BBPS
- Thur 13 Aug: South Coast Warriors - Pigeon House

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**School News**

**Volleyball**
Congratulations to our girls volleyball team who travelled to Sydney for State Volleyball on 23 July. A report and photos will be in next week’s newsletter.

**Year 11**
On Sunday, 26 July some of our adventurous Year 11 students packed their bags and set off for three days at the snow. For many students, it was their first experience skiing and boarding and by all accounts they had a tremendous time. Some wonderful pictures and report to read next week.

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**Heywire**

“The ABC’s Heywire competition is calling for stories by year 10, 11 and 12 students from rural and regional Australia. They’re encouraged to submit text (400 words), audio, photos or video about life in their neck of the woods.

Heywire is not about being the best writer or media maker as the ABC will work alongside the winners to help produce their pieces to be broadcast on the ABC. It’s about showing the rest of Australia what life is like for young people in your part of the country.

Dan Hirst, Executive Producer, Heywire

Visit the Heywire website: [abc.net.au/heywire](http://abc.net.au/heywire) for further information. The Heywire website is where students can see last year’s winning entries and upload their own entries this year.
Four months of making, training and rehearsing. Four days spent building the set. Four nights of wonderful performances. “Saltwater” saw the combined efforts and cooperation of literally dozens of staff, ex staff and ex students to provide opportunities for our students.

The performers put themselves out there under the scrutiny of a paying public and rose to the occasion admirably. The audience were genuinely amazed by what they encountered.

A tour de force: an achievement of great skill and cooperation. Thank you to all!
Our school now has a FREE app
Recieve school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone

How to download your FREE app
1. From your mobile device go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) OR Google Play (Android) search for School Stream and download the app to your phone
2. Make sure you agree to push notifications
3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search THEN select your school

For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download

Community News

UOW BATEMANS BAY INFORMATION EVENING

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO STUDY LOCALLY?
PLAN YOUR NEXT STEP!

Find out what options are available for you at your local University of Wollongong campus. We have full degree options in Arts, Teaching, Nursing, Accounting, Management, Business, Early Childhood, and Social Science. We also have a variety of flexible entry pathways.

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

bbay.uow.edu.au
#ThinkUOW
T: 4472 2125

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.