BOMTHREATS
A number of bomb threats have been received by schools at the start of the 2016 school year. Thankfully, Batemans Bay High School is yet to receive one. I say yet because the tally of schools that have received calls is climbing and it is entirely possible that we are randomly targeted in the future. At the time of writing, the media is reporting that nearly 50 schools across the country have been evacuated due to the hoax calls.

Despite the fact that no genuine threat has emerged, any bomb threat will be treated seriously and the school’s emergency response will be implemented immediately. We will act in accordance with advice from police and the Department of Education.

It is disappointing that our way of life is being increasingly compromised by those that seek to subvert our society’s values. Disrupting the operation of schools and the education of students is the primary intention of hoax callers, but parents need to know that we will never compromise the safety of their children, even if that means needing to leave a Mathematics lesson half-way through the period.

GRADING OF CLASSES
The grading of classes is a topic confounded by opposing philosophical values, personal experiences and an absence of evidence-based decision-making. There is a great deal of research into streaming in primary schools, but much less that is applicable to the situation faced by high schools with more complex curriculum, staffing and timetabling demands. The key conclusion from the meta-research is that the quality of the teacher makes the defining difference to student outcomes. That is, the way in which classes are graded is less important when materials and teaching are varied and made appropriately challenging to accommodate the needs of students at their differing levels of ability. There is also clear evidence to indicate that streaming enhances the learning of high performing students whilst having potentially detrimental effects on the engagement, achievement and self-perception of students in low-ability classes.

To best address these conflicting positions, the core class structure at Batemans Bay High School consists of two graded classes (classes E and A in Year 7/8, P and L in Year 9/10) with the remainder being mixed-ability classes. This allows high performing students to be extended and avoids the negative impact on remaining students. The executive is considering ways to prevent the confusion created by the current labelling of classes in the next timetable.

Head teachers meet at the end of terms two and four to determine core class placements and changes are made where appropriate. A number of factors outside academic ability are considered. Changes at other times are avoided as not all topics are studied concurrently and students may be further disadvantaged if moved outside of the designated windows.

In the past, there were times when all classes were graded or quasi-remedial/behaviour classes were created. Parents and students need to know that there is now no such thing as a “bottom” class. I insist that all students have the right to learn and be pushed to reach their potential regardless of their class. Teachers put emphasis on differentiated learning and support structures are in place to ensure no-one is left behind.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
What’s On Term 1

Week 4
Monday 15 Feb  P&C AGM - all parents welcome, 7pm Library
Tuesday 16 Feb  Year 11 Boot camp at UOW 9 - 3pm
Wed 17 Feb  Zone Swimming Carnival

Week 5
Fri 26 Feb  Harmony Day

Peer Support Program

The Peer Support Program teaches students a range of skills to deal positively and proactively with life experiences, develop a sense of self worth and belonging and encourages taking responsibility for decisions and actions. Students are allocated into groups of 8-10 and work through a series of activities covering a range of skills and concepts, which are led by two Peer leaders.

Moving into secondary school represents a significant change for students, as they adjust to a new situation that is quite different from their experience in primary school. Working through the Framework for Orientation provides students with opportunities to get to know others and their Peer leaders. The framework is designed to assist younger students to become familiar and confident with their school, teachers and new routines. Time is given to assist students to learn how to manage and organise their time effectively.

Research has shown when students form close connections with their peers they are more likely to have a satisfying and successful school experience.

You can support your child by asking them about the Peer Support Program and encouraging ongoing communication between your child, home and school.

Claire Mathie
Peer Support Coordinator/Year 10 Advisor

Student Achievement

Kateia Barenaba Yr12

Kateia is the most recent of our students to represent Australia in her chosen sport, the first being Jason Croker who played rugby league for Australia in 1988. Kateia is an elite volleyballer who has spent most of her holidays in training as well as studying for her HSC. We wish her the best of luck in her upcoming matches for school and country.
PARTICIPANTS
Pictured from left to right (back row): Mr Steve Picton, Mr Greg McDonald, Ms Emma Weldon, Ms Kerry Foster, Mr Patrick O’Connor, Ms Maureen Searson, Mayor Lindsay Brown (Front Row): Finn Jeffery, John Lomnicki, Tyrone Elvy, Samantha Hanlon

Congratulations to the following students: Finn Jeffery (Year 9), John Lomnicki (Year 10), Tyrone Elvy (Year 10) and Samantha Hanlon (Year 10). All students at the conclusion of 2015 have excelled in planning implementing and completing their Youth Frontiers Civic projects. They have contributed not only to the wider community in the areas of “Environment and Conservation”, “Youth Mental Health” and “Sports and Recreation” but have shown tremendous resilience, leadership qualities and represented Batemans Bay High School in a positive and memorable light.

Students with the support of South Coast Workplace and Learning and distinguished members of the local community acting as mentors to guide our students in creating a civic project in the areas of:

- Youth Mental Health
- 100 Years ANZAC
- Empowering young women
- Sports and Recreation
- Environment and Conservation

Our participants selected via application by a panel, began working throughout 2015 in putting together short films, sport gala days at local primary schools, volunteer days, poster design with local businesses; in four successful projects.
Of these four students, three were selected from our region stretching from Vaucluse to Albury as finalists to be judged by a second panel on merit of their projects. Samantha Hanlon narrowly missed out on a spot, however is highly commended on her Soccer Gala day project at Batemans Bay Primary School and has been invited back to run an annual gala day at the school.

Finn Jeffery’s Environment and Conservation project and John Lomnicki’s Youth Mental Health short film project have both been officially selected as finalists.

Both students will travel to the NSW State Parliament House on Wednesday, 17 February for the announcement of the State Winner. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to both students, not only have they done Batemans Bay High School proud, but they have placed Batemans Bay and the future of youth leadership on the map. Congratulations and well done boys.

Anica Koprivec
Teacher

The Bay Post link to a fantastic article follows

Finn and mentor Emma Weldon

John pictured with Mayor Lindsay Brown and mentor Kerry Foster
The swimming carnival was held on Wednesday, 3 February. It was a fantastic day with the weather on our side (the rain came at about 3:30). We saw many people supporting their house groups and friends, cheering on all competitors. Congratulations to all competitors who got in the pool and had a go and to those outstanding swimmers who came away with ribbons. The zone swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday, 17 February and we wish our squad the best of luck.
Batemans Bay Junior Boars Rugby Union

Junior teams aged from under 10 - under 18’s will Play in the ACT Junior competition on a Saturday, playing both home and away games.

Hanging Rock training
4.30 pm Thursday
Registration costs are $90
Program is fully supported by ACT Brumbies - for further information https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors
0408 247 644 or 0428 743 471

Broulee Beach Fun Run
Friday, 26 February
Register from 4.30pm at South Broulee

2km, 3.5km or 5km
$5 per child
$15 per adult
$25 per family

Prizes and Dress Up competition

Organised by The Broulee and Moruya Public Schools P&C to raise funds for both schools.
SEAHAWKS/WAVES NETBALL CLUB

We will be having a registration day at the Seahawks oval at Hanging Rock on:

- Thursday, 3 March 4-6pm
- Saturday, 5 March 9.30 - 11.30am
- Saturday, 12 March 9.30 - 11.30am

2016 fees
- Net Set Go Skills 5-7 years $80
- Net Set Go 8-10 years $80
- Junior 11-17 years $115
- Senior 18 years + $145
- Non players $45 (coaches etc)
- Player with a disability $40

For more information please phone
0407 923 092 or 0420 500 664