



# YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, safety and learning.

Principal: Linda Langton

Deputy Principals: Andrew Facer & Ruth Riach

## Parent Teacher Evening

The first parent teacher night of the year for Yass High School was held last Tuesday 18th of February. With over 1,000 bookings many parents and caregivers were able to receive feedback from teachers about the educational needs, progress and directions for their children this year. Our teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet parents and caregivers, many of whom are new to Yass High School.

To ensure the future success of parent teacher evenings we would like all parents and caregivers to provide us with their feedback by completing our survey sent via the Sentral Parent Portal last Wednesday.

Of course, many parents and caregivers were unable to attend last Tuesday but would still like to discuss with teachers the learning of their children. To contact teachers please visit the parent portal and go to the messages tab. To download the app see page 9 in this issue of InTouch.



## From the Principal

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.

The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>  
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used *Tell Them From Me* to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 8 May. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.  
The consent form and FAQs are available in 23 languages.



## Captains Corner

Hey guys, hope your all hyped to be almost halfway through Term One! (Reality-hocus pocus, we all need coffee to focus;) Swimming carnival and school photo's already done and dusted; we are plugging steadily on through the year.

We would like to remind you that every Monday lunch we have SRC meeting in D4 and would LOVE to see more students share their opinions and help us make our visions happen.

We know it is awhile away but a heads up that ANZAC day will be the last weekend of the holidays and it would be great if ALL of you were there!

We are proud to announce that our teacher of the week is not a teacher at all but our awesome camera crew for the wonderful work they did on photo day.

We would also like to thank all other teachers and students that assisted with this process.

Joke of the week: "I had to give up my career as a photographer. I kept losing focus"



## University of Wollongong Discovery Day

On the 6th and 7th of February, 24 Year 12 students attended the University of Wollongong Discovery Day.

Each student chose their own careers information sessions and spent all day Friday with hundreds of other Year 12 students finding out what Uni is like.

On Thursday night they explored Wollongong's attractions like the beach and city centre. They travelled with Cootamundra and Young High Schools there and back, which was a great way to meet other rural students who are also interested in tertiary education.

University of Wollongong Discovery Day is an annual event designed to inform students about University life and study options.



## YHS Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival was held on February 12 and it was pleasing to see a marked increase in participation across all ages and races. Final results were:

1<sup>st</sup> Hume – 1164 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Hovell – 1052 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> Oxley – 779 pts

4<sup>th</sup> Sturt – 743 pts



### Age Champions

Age	Champions	Runner Up
12	Brody Wykes and Molly Puckett	Luke Hewlett and Ella-Rose Bywater
13	Patrick Koen and Felicity Shannon	Cooper Lees and Adina Hinds
14	Riley Gibbs and Tegan Davis	Malakai Vea and Darcy-Rose Payne
15	Gus Hinds and Bronte Anderson	Jake McDonald and Samantha Roberts
16	Riley Glover and Chelsea Shannon	Christopher Campbell and Georgia Paull
17+	Nick Hinds and Megan Kemp	Jake Garner and Jessica Catalini



There were two records broken on the day both by the very talented swimmer Felicity Shannon. Felicity set new records in the 50m freestyle with a time of 30.79s (Old record 31.97s Amy Paton 2003) and the 100m Freestyle with a new time of 1.07.69 m (Old record 1.10.56 Laura Raine 2005)



The contribution of all the students on the day was very good but there were a few who really stood out. They epitomised what school sport is all about and none more so than young Harrison Shanahan whose participation was outstanding and was continually applauded for his exceptional effort in every event.



Thank you Alexander Edgar for the great photos

## YHS Year Advisor Profiles

We would like to introduce you to our Year Advisors. In each InTouch a small insight will be given into a particular Year Advisor, what they do, and how they help our students at YHS.

### Teresa Baines Year 12 Year Advisor

Began at YHS in 2006.

Trained in English and History.

Run the school Netball and the vaccination program.

I have had some very fond memories with the current Year 12 group including running a school fete and attending many rewards excursions and our Year 10 camp to Jindabyne.

I am very, very proud of my Year 12s. They are not only my students but my family and my children. I am going to miss them all very much when they leave.



## Wearing of seat belts on School Buses – where fitted

When a school bus is fitted with seat belts, persons sitting in those seats **MUST** wear those seat belts.

From time to time children are detected moving about the bus, or just not wearing their seat belts. This is of major concern to Busabout and Transport for NSW.

\*\*\*\*\*Transport for NSW has directed that any school student not wearing their seat belt will be classified under **HIGHLY DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR** and suspended from free travel privileges\*\*\*\*\*

Australian Road Rules 2008  
265 - Wearing of seatbelts by passengers 16 years old or older  
266 - Wearing of seatbelts by passengers under 16 years old

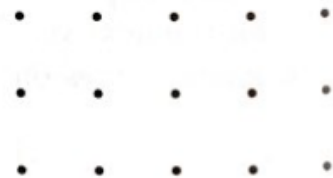
## Stage 4 & 5 Problem of the Fortnight

### Stage 4:

A rectangle has an area of 72 square centimeters and the length is twice the width. The perimeter, in centimeters, of the rectangle is \_\_\_\_\_

### Stage 5:

A 3 by 5 grid of dots is set out as shown. How many straight line segments can be drawn that join two of these dots and pass through exactly one other dot?



### Y Tally:

Congratulations to the following students receiving the most Y's for the fortnight

Year 7: Angus Pollack

Year 8: Ella Widdows

Year 9: Mackenzie Ironside

Year 10: Clancy Knox

Year 11: Darcie O'Sullivan

Year 12: Dylan Huey

## Student Exchange Program

Free live online information session for students and families. Hear from our very experienced, Senior staff, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 5th March at 7.30pm  
Register now

Visit [[studentexchange.org.nz](http://studentexchange.org.nz)][www.studentexchange.org.nz](http://www.studentexchange.org.nz)  
or call 0800 440 079 for more information

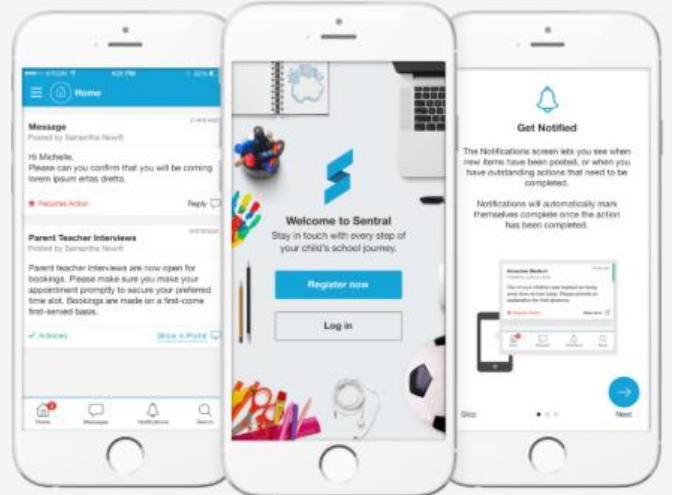


## Sentral For Parents is now Available at Yass High

Login with your Parent Portal details

### Sentral for Parents

The Sentral Parent app has been designed for parents to be more informed and in control of information. This app makes it very easy to monitor and manage all aspects of your child's education and interaction with the school.



### Sentral for Parents features



#### Better Informed

Receive push notifications about everything that's important for your child.



#### Information at your fingertips

Information that's most relevant and needs your attention appears clearly on your mobile device.

**Please contact the school office if you need assistance logging in to the App.**



# Compulsory School Attendance

## Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

### What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

### The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

### What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

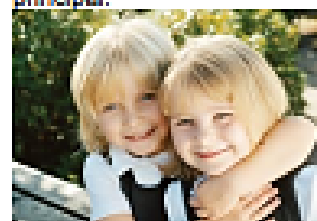
Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

### Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





**My child won't go to school.  
What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

**What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?**

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

**What age can my child leave school?**

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

**Working in Partnership**

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

**If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.**

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

**Policy, information and brochures:**

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy library

**The school leaving age:**  
Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

**Do you need an interpreter?**

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

[www.dec.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

## Coming Events

Date	Event
Monday 2 March – Wednesday 4 March	Year 9 Camp – Broken Bay
Wednesday 4 March	Year 7 & New Family Open Evening & BBQ 5 – 7pm
Thursday 5 March	P & C 6:30pm
Tuesday 10 March	South Coast Swimming Carnival - Dapto
Thursday 12 March	Year 7 2021 Open Day/Information Evening
Friday 20 March	Zone Knockout Touch Football - Goulburn
<a href="#"><u>Click on the school website for the online calendar</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Remember assessment tasks dates due are available on school website assessment calendars</u></a>	