15th March 2024

InTouch





This week marked a significant milestone for our Year 7 and 9 students as they began their NAPI AN These tests. assessments provide valuable insights into their academic progress and help us tailor our support to ensure each student's success. With these results, we can better understand their for strengths and areas improvement, allowing us to implement targeted interventions where necessary. It's essential for us as educators to continuously monitor and adjust our strategies to ensure every student receives the support they need to thrive academically.

On another note, I'm thrilled to again share some positive news regarding our attendance rates. Our fortnightly attendance records show a continuous increase in the number of students attending school over 90% of the time. This achievement reflects the dedication of both our students and families towards prioritising their education. However, we also recognise the importance of supporting students who may be struggling to maintain consistent attendance. Over the next fortnight, we will be focusing on improving attendance rates for students falling between 70% and 80%. Together, we can work towards ensuring every student has the opportunity to fully engage in their learning journey. Our attendance data for the last fortnight is included below. Every day does matter!



Year 7 students presenting their portraits in art.

WHAT'S ON?

Parent Teacher Night 1 Thursday 14th March, 4pm

Parent Teacher Night 2 Thursday 21st March, 4pm

Lastly, I'd like to remind parents and guardians about the upcoming Parent-Teacher Nights scheduled for the 14th and 21st of March.





These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress, strengths, and areas for development directly with their teachers.

I encourage all parents to make bookings through Compass to secure a time slot that best fits your schedule. Your active involvement in your child's education is paramount, and these meetings serve as a crucial platform for fostering collaboration between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a nurturing and enriching learning environment for all our students.

Andrew Facer

CAPTAINS CORNER

Once again, this fortnight has been packed with even more sporting events, including the Open Boys & Girls Union Trials, the Open Boys & Girls Touch Trials, the Boys Zone Soccer Gala Day, the Rugby League Gala Day, South Coast Swimming, the 16's and 18's Girls Rugby League Trials, and more. We would like to give a huge congratulations to those who have advanced further in their career, and we would also like to thank the participants of these events for proudly representing the school and the wider community.

Lastly, we'd like to briefly remind you about respectful language and behaviour around our school. We hope all students are making the absolute best use of their time here at school, and remind students to please be respectful to your peers and teachers.

Malakai, Grace, Lachlan, Riley





STUDENTS OF THE FORTNIGHT





Liam Barlow *Year 12* For highest mark in Biology HSC task.



Makayla Langfield

Demonstrating comprehensive research skills and diligence in work ethic across all PDHPE subjects.



Annabelle Grogan

For consistent approach to classwork





Jazmin Hulme *Year 10* For amazing work at The Canberra Show.





Eric Pearson Year 9

Persistence and an excellent work ethic in Industrial Technology - Metal





Rose Ryan

Year 7 Diligent application and consistently presenting work in a clear and thoughtful manner.

SPORT NEWS

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS NETBALL CARNIVAL

On Monday 4th March YHS took an Opens and an under 15's girls netball team to Bowral, to play in the Southern Tablelands Carnival.

The Open ladies had a tough first game against Moss Vale, winning by a close 9-They soon found their form 5. winning all games against Karabar, Bowral, Mulwaree, and Goulburn; scoring a total of 78 goals and only 16 against them for the day.

The girls finished the day undefeated and special congratulations to Addie Hinds, Molly Puckett, Felicity Shannon and Mikayla Langfield for being named in the Open zone team to play at Illawarra on the 28th March.



Under 15's Girls Team



Open Girls Team

The under 15 girls had a great day out and showed some great skills and sportsmanship. They played 6 games with close overall, scoring games against Moss Vale and Mulwaree. The girls finished the day in 3rd place.

I would also like to thank Jo Hinds and Shaun Job for taking the day to umpire for us to allow the girls to play. We appreciate your help and support.



ANNOUNCING THE FORTNIGHTLY MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE! Each fortnight, a new mathematical conundrum will be posted to challenge the wits of all. Solution slips can be found in the mathematics foyer area. Submit your slip with your name, working out and solution to one of the fabulous Maths teachers before the end of the fortnight for your chance to win a delicious prize!







PBL MVP





Owen Hughes Year 12

For upholding school values of responsibility during his distance learning of Physics.





Jack Dickson

Year 11 For consistently setting a fine example for his peers with regard to the Yass High values.





Janika Vea

Year 10 For fantastic work as a Peer Connect Leader.







Kaed Harvie

Year 8

For being consistently respectful, responsible, polite, and setting an excellent example for his peers during roll call.

Harper Kevill

Year 7 For Consistently demonstrating school values

Kyron Edwards Year 8

For having a positive spirit towards all aspects of work.

ART NEWS





Our talented Year 7 students have been working at developing their skills in portraiture.

We have been studying a range of Contemporary and Modern artists including Pablo Picasso and Australia's own Del Katheryn Barton. Both these artists have their own distinct style and explore portraiture in their own way. Students have been learning to mix their own secondary and tertiary colours, colour mixing is a critical skill that allows students to develop their own painting style and create mood, tone and contrast within their artmaking.









The school library is open to all Yass High students for borrowing before school from 8.45 am, second half of lunch and recess.

The Teacher Librarian, Ms Morse, welcomes student requests for books and study resources. Students are encouraged to fill out a *'library wish'* with the details of their request and put it in the box on the front counter. New books from the requests are added to the collection each week!



Reading regularly and widely not only boosts student achievement across the curriculum but has numerous mental health and wellbeing benefits. So come by the library and pick up a mood booster!

Boost your mood with a book

Those who read 30 mins a week were 18% more likely to **report an increase in self-esteem** and **greater life satisfaction**.

USTRĂLÎA REĂDŠ*

Are you up for a (NSW Premier's Reading) Challenge?

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read and to read more widely.

The challenge requires students to record 10 books on the recommended reading list and 10 books of their own choice between now and the 23rd of August. This year, all year 7 students are taking part - but the challenge is open to all in 7-10.

Check out 'reading lists' from the menu on the school's library catalogue OLIVER, accessed via the student portal 'my library' app, to see all the books on the reading list which are available to loan from the library. Students are also encouraged to visit our local community Yass Valley Library to find both challenge and choice books.

Join the challenge today!

Important Dates:

Monday 26 February 2024: Challenge opens Friday 23 August 2024: Challenge closes for student entries

SCIENCE NEWS

FOOTWEAR IN SCIENCE



In Science lessons students are given the opportunity to engage in many practical experiences to develop their working scientifically skills. In fact practical experiences form around 50% of our course content.

These practical lessons may involve:

- sharp objects such as scalpels,
- glassware which can break,
- boiling water which can cause severe burns,
- acids and a variety of chemicals.



To participate in these practical experiences students need to be able to work safely. This will include tying back hair and wearing safety glasses when necessary. At times students will even need to wear gloves. Gloves, safety glasses, and even an elastic band will be provided by the school in these situations. However for safety reasons, students must wear footwear in Science that conforms to the Department of Education Workplace Health and Safety requirements.

They must be leather (or suitable safe alternative) and fully enclosed. This means they cannot have fabric or mesh inserts.

Black leather shoes are ideal as are work boots or all leather runners. If your student does not have the appropriate shoes to participate in a practical task in Science they will be given an alternative task for that lesson. If they are unable to participate in a number of experiments this may impact on their progress in Science as they will not be developing skills which we are grading them on.

Attached is a copy of the Footwear Guidelines for NSW Government Schools.







Footwear Guidelines for NSW Government Schools Health and Safety Directorate



The Department, through its WHS Policy, is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment for all employees, others undertaking work, students and visitors, in accordance with statutory and regulatory obligations and corporate objectives.

Footwear is an important safety item. Good soles provide a sound grip on the floor preventing accidents such as slips, trips and falls from occurring. Footwear can also protect feet from damage caused by accidents such as falling objects or chemical spillages. These guidelines have been developed to assist NSW government schools in providing a safe working and learning environment. Schools which already have risk management controls in place in relation to footwear should refer to these guidelines when reviewing and evaluating those controls.

Areas where safe footwear must be worn

In accordance with the Safe Working Policy, the Department has identified areas of its workplaces where appropriate footwear must be worn by employees, students and visitors to ensure their safety.

Areas where enclosed leather footwear (or other material confirmed by the manufacturer to be suitable, refer to Australian/NZ Standard 2210: Safety Protective and Occupational Footwear) is required are:

- Industrial Arts and trades workshop areas
- Science laboratories
- Canteen or Food Technology (kitchen areas)

Sandals, open footwear or high heeled shoes are not permitted in these areas. If students present for a class or activity with inappropriate footwear the student should be offered alternative educational activities until they are wearing appropriate footwear.

The above list is not exhaustive. Appropriate safe footwear may also be identified as a requirement in relation to other areas or activities, documented procedure or a documented risk assessment. For example, in work situations where floors can't always be kept dry or clean, the right footwear is especially important, so a slip resistant shoe may be required. Another example is wearing enclosed leather footwear (or suitable safe alternative) in agricultural areas / activities.

In addition, other sites on which the Department provides services may have specific requirements which should be adhered to, for example, Education Training Units in Juvenile Justice settings.

Footwear for employees in the general school environment

The Department strongly recommends school employees and other undertaking work consider wearing footwear that is suitable for walking on a number of different surfaces during the working day (e.g. stairs, playgrounds, grass and sports fields).

Footwear which is suitable for the general school environment means enclosed shoes, which are flat shoes or shoes with a minimal heel that have a good grip and fit well.

For some employees, such as general assistants and farm assistants, wearing enclosed leather footwear throughout the working day is important. This is because their responsibilities for ground maintenance and other activities mean that they need footwear that will assist in preventing slips, trips or falls or protect their feet from falling objects.

Implementation of guidelines

School principals, as workplace managers, are responsible for ensuring procedures are in place to maintain a safe work environment in accordance with the **Safe Work Policy** and these guidelines. In accordance with WHS legislation, principals have the authority to determine that employee and students wear shoes that are appropriate to ensure work health and safety for the planned activity. This includes identified school activities (see "Areas where safe footwear must be worn") and excursions.

However, workplace managers should note that it is not appropriate for schools to require students, through the use of a general term "work health and safety" to wear particular shoes as part of a uniform policy.

Principals should communicate the reasons for these decisions to employee and students i.e. that the decision has been made for their safety and the safety of others.

NSW Department of Education | FACT011 - V1 | Health and Safety Directorate: 1800 811 523



WELLBEING



NSW Department of Education

Every Day Matters

If your child misses as little as they will miss

day per fortnight







Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:



୍ଭାନ୍ତି ଅନ୍ଥ୍ୟି Strengthening friendships



Emotional development



Scan the QR code to learn more Time with friends, assignments, an important math lesson or getting picked for a sports team – we don't want any one of our students missing out. **Days missed here and there add up.**

With regular school attendance your child will have the best opportunity to learn and improve their wellbeing. We are here to support your child to be ready and engaged for school. Please contact us if you need any assistance with your child's attendance.

Visit the Every Day Matters webpage for more information and resources.



We provide an optimistic voice by empowering young Australians to say no to violence.

PAT CRONIN

FOUNDATION

Violence is destroying young lives

Pat Cronin was a gentle natured 19 year-old killed by a single Coward Punch in 2016 while helping a mate who was being attacked. The force of that punch fractured Pat's skull, causing an inoperable bleed on his brain. Two days later, Pat's parents Matt and Robyn

Cronin, made the agonising decision to turn off his life support.

We use Pat's story as an illustration of what can happen when young people are faced with violence, and how wiser choices can be made. Using this approach we know

we have saved lives, prevented incidents and helped young people to reflect on and change their attitudes to violence.

USEFUL LINKS

Info Hub: www.patcroninfoundation.org.au/info-hub/
Kids Helpline: www.kidshelpline.com.au
Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au

Headspace: www.headspace.org.au

The Pat Cronin Foundation is delivering the Be Wise Education Program as part of your child's school's commitment to student wellbeing.

What to expect

Our education program for Years 7 – 12 discusses youth violence and victims' stories in a positive and empowering way, enriched with strategies and support.

- The Year 7 12 presentations and eLearning modules cover Pat's story, anger and aggression, the consequences of social violence and strategies for navigating conflict. We share Pat's story to illustrate clearly why these issues are important, as a demonstration of the tragic consequences of unwise decisions. It does include imagery and topics that may be challenging to some students.
- Students are informed at the start of the presentations and modules that emotional content will be shared. Pat was a teenager himself – students relate to his story and the grief of his friends and family. This powerful emotional connection is critical to empowering young people to make wise decisions.
- Students who reflect and make links between the content and their own lives report a more effective learning experience in terms of how they can utilise the strategies discussed and better understand the role anger plays in aggression.
- We recommend families have regular conversations about the importance of walking away from violence – regardless of the circumstances – the consequences are never worth it.



LET'S END THE COWARD PUNCH

www.patcroninfoundation.org.au

We work closely with schools

Our programs have been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, researchers, students, and parents, to bring a whole community approach to such an important wellbeing topic.

- Our materials link directly to the Australian Curriculum and State curricula, specifically: recognition and expression of emotions, development of resilience, relationships and diversity, and conflict resolution.
- Teachers are aware that Pat's story may emotionally impact students. We recommend to schools that relevant support staff should attend our presentations, and that appropriate welfare support is available.

Our Be Wise Education Program helps schools discuss lifechanging topics through:

Educational Presentations (Year 7 – 12)

We discuss the consequences of social conflict and how students can navigate anger and de-escalate conflict.

Violence Prevention eLearning Modules (Years 7 - 12) Students reflect on emotions that lead to social violence and explore strategies to defuse conflict.

Act Kindly Activity Kit (Foundation – Grade 6) Teacher-led resources that develop emotional literacy. Includes lesson plans and activities based on our popular storybooks.

Your child may access one or more parts of the Program. We encourage you to support your school to deliver the Program across all year levels so your community can foster safe and positive behaviours.

Our Impact

Our research shows that almost one quarter of high school students like to watch fights in the playground, over one-third have been in a physical fight, and 36% either agree or are at least neutral on the question of whether it's fun to tease classmates.

Encouragingly, 90% of students indicated our presentation will be useful in their lives – and most would recommend it to others.¹ Having presented to over 80,000 students at more than 400 schools across Australia, teachers tell us that our educational presentations are making an impact on students and are starting conversations at home as well as on campus.

Together we can help them Be Wise.

 Research conducted by Pat Cronin Foundation: 2022 Pre-presentation and Post-presentation Surveys. Read more on our Info Hub



Help them to Be Wise.

Learn how to support us.





LET'S END THE COWARD PUNCH

www.patcroninfoundation.org.au





YASS HIGH SCHOOL P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JOIN US ON THE 4TH OF APRIL FOR OUR P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6PM

YASS HIGH SCHOOL STAFF COMMON ROOM





TIX southerntablelandsarts.com.au/whatson

Australian Red Cross

Give life. Give blood in Yass.

Near Atherfield Medical Centre, Lead Street 4 to 6 April

Thursday Friday Saturday 9.00 am–3.30 pm 8.30 am–3.30 pm 8.30 am–1.30 pm

(02) 6226 1711

Ø give blood

Got a bit of time next week? Time to give blood and change lives?

1 in 3 people in Yass will need blood, and they need people like you to give it. We're rolling into town **4 to 6 April.**

Don't forget to pre-book your spot at: Lifeblood.com.au, on the app, or on 13 14 95

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