Term 2-2012

It was with a sad heart that we began Term 2 with news of the tragic passing of one of our students, Hayden Lock. We held Year Level assemblies on Monday 23rd April to talk to our students about the tragedy and how they could access counselling support if they required it. When students leave each term, we always send them off with a “come back, safe, happy and healthy to begin the new term”, but for this young man, he will never fulfill his potential. Our most sincere condolences go to his family. The community has been fantastic and it really highlights the sense of belonging that everyone has within it. Our students are designing a memorial site for Hayden and we wish to acknowledge all of the support that has been given to us, to our students and to his parents. We live in a fantastic community, one that really cares and that takes the time to acknowledge and support our young people. It will take a long time for our students to recover, but what has been truly significant is their resilience, their support of each other and their sense of togetherness.

Staffing: The following is the staffing for Term 2 - David Tamlyn (continuing to replace Paul Dowling), Aimee Cullen (replacing Chris Duncan and backfilling for others), Phil Boyle (Acting AP - Weeks 2&3, 8&9), Marie Milne (Acting DP - Weeks 2&3, 8&9), Trish Walker (Year 12 Coordinator - Weeks 1-4), Bill Barrie (Year 12 Coordinator - Weeks 8&9). Simon Illingworth will not be with us for Term 2. Dave McLeod returns from LSL.

National Broadband Network: The Joint Parliamentary Committee visited the school on April 30th to look at what we have been doing with the NBN. The issues that I addressed with them included the NBN enablement and its costs to schools, Cybersafety and Esmart strategy, “Flipping the classroom”, the “Virtual Classroom” and the application that we have lodged with Flinders University to gain funding to further our journey of e-learning and breaking down the traditional walls of education.

Training and Development opportunity: On May 28th we will have a training and development day where staff will be working with Bruce Dixon and the “ideaslab” personnel. This is at no cost to our school, but if it was, we would not be able to afford it. A fantastic opportunity and one that will provide ongoing T&D in continuing our e-learning journey.

E-smart and Cyber safety: We will be opening up our filters and blocks (not totally, but with a “white hat” approach). This means that some sites will be unblocked and for Senior School students, we will have a different approach. However, in order to do all of this we will be making our school an E-Smart School. We are undertaking an audit and then we will all be delivering T&D to ensure that we can all express the cyber safety message in meaningful ways. We only need to see what is happening in other schools (YouTube) to know that we need to go down this path and to explicitly teach these concepts and embed them into our teaching and learning programs.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Opening of our Facilities: At the end of Term 1 we had our new facilities opened by Leon Bignell, MP for Mawson. It was a great occasion and signified the end of the first phase of our redevelopment journey.

We are hoping to apply for a loan to build a new gym, upgrade our tennis/netball courts and Performing Arts area. I wish to thank our students for being wonderful ambassadors on the day and our visitors were extremely impressed with our new Middle School area. A comment made by Richard Costi, District Director, sums it up beautifully: “I knew that the Middle School would be good, but I did not expect it to be this good!” Our facilities are state of the art and have features that are not represented in other new middle school areas - we are extremely lucky!

AROUND THE SCHOOL.....

On the 7th of May Brainstorm Productions will present the play ‘Cyberia’ for Years 8 -10. The play highlights some of the complex issues surrounding the misuse of technology and the damage caused by cyber bullying. This is an entertaining way to promote discussion and to give the students guidelines about what constitutes cyber bullying, the effects of too much screen time and violent video games, internet safety, digital citizenship and protecting our on-line reputation. Brainstorm Productions has won the NSW Department of Education Performing Arts Unit’s Frater Award for "Best Feedback from Schools" for 10 consecutive years. This show will assist in creating a safe harmonious environment for students and staff at school and online.

Lyn Rowe
Student Counsellor

Art
In Art the Year 9s started with a realistic image of an animal, simplifying it until they ended up with an abstract image. The Year 10s have been studying portraiture and famous artists such as Modigliani and Lichtenstein. They started with a lead pencil sketch of a classmate, and then did a colour pencil version. Some students did other pieces in charcoal or pastel. They also did portraits based on the styles of Modigliani (elongated face and neck) and Lichtenstein (comic book style).

Nick Belchamber
Art Teacher

SUCCESS | FAIRNESS | SAFETY | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY