Bilgola Plateau's Pedlar's Parade

Bilgola Plateau had its 'Pedlar's Parade' on Thursday, 29th April after the Easter Hat Parade. The Year 6 students dressed as 'something from the Easter show' and made items to sell to students in order to raise money for the Year 6 gift to the school.

A variety of activities were on offer: face painting, sponge throwing, tombola, cake stall, pet rocks, guessing competitions and tie-dyed shirts. The Year 6 students raised $1600 and learnt some valuable leadership skills and lessons in business!

Elanora Heights Public School Pi Day

Year 6 students were feeling very hungry during their Pi Day investigations at Elanora Heights Public School in Week 7. They busied themselves investigating what happened when you divide the circumference of any circle by its diameter. They measured wooden circles, the bottom of water bottles, the rim of a bin, and of course some real life pies! Not being able to accurately use rulers to measure around the circles, they decided to use string.

Year 6 discovered an interesting pattern: whenever they divided the circumference (the distance around the outside of a circle) by the diameter (distance across the middle of that circle), their answer hovered around 3. This fits with the 4000 year old discovery of the ratio known as Pi.

Pi Day is celebrated worldwide on the 14th of March. In Australia we write that date as 14.3 but many countries in the world write it as 3.14 - the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

Although none of the Year 6 groups got exactly 3.14, they were happy to take the investigation further to test the ratio later at home, perhaps with afternoon tea biscuits!
Cromer Public School

Swimming Sensations!
Huge congratulations to Nick Jennens (Year 6) who has continued to make a BIG SPLASH at the recent State Swimming Titles held this week at Homebush. Not only has he qualified for Nationals in all 5 events he entered but has also set personal best in all events.
As you can imagine, the competition in swimming is fierce at a regional level so to make this National level is an outstanding personal achievement which shows a lot of commitment and hours of training!
We wish him all the best in his future swimming endeavours and look forward to hearing about his results at Nationals.

Design, Make, Innovate
Year 5 Cromer students have spent the term learning about the design process in Science and Technology. They completed three tasks including an investigation with paper folds, building a straw bridge and the final task, a bridge made out of paddle pop sticks that would hold 500 grams. Students worked collaboratively in teams of three and created some amazing structures that reflected their learning. Congratulations to the winning team, the people’s choice team and all students involved.

Buddies at Cromer
Kindergarten students are given a Year 6 ‘buddy’ on their first day of school. Buddies look after the Kindergarten students for the first few weeks of school. Year 6 buddies came over to the Kindergarten classrooms each recess and lunch and looked after the new students in the playground. They helped teach the new kindergarten students the school rules and encouraged them to play with their new Kindy friends.
Back in the classroom, Year 6 buddies are invited to come and join in with the Kindergarten lessons. They read to the students, help them with their writing and join in with art lessons. Each year students make Easter Hats at school. The Year 6 buddies help the Kindergartens make their hats for the parade.

iPad Documentary Making at Narrabeen North
In preparation for the roll out of the NNPS iPads in 2013, the Stage 2 students at Narrabeen North Public School participated in a Term 1 Field of Mars excursion producing environmental documentaries using iMovie.

Students worked in groups of 3 and took on the rolls of director, presenter and cinematographer. After determining their focus question for their movie, they set off to research their topic in the local area including Mullet Creek and the Warriewood wetlands. Initially all students experienced a video conference to talk about the features of documentaries, as well as how to storyboard, recognise best camera angles and features of a successful presentation. Teams were then able to write a script and storyboard ready for filming.

The filming day involved a synthesis of the students’ prior learning including using iPads, iMovie, as well as microphones for interviewing and for voice overs. Skills included editing techniques and adding music or special effects, and students were also able to make a trailer to promote their documentary. The day concluded with a sharing session allowing students, teachers and parents to view their incredible documentaries about their local living environments.
Collaroy Plateau Public School Robotics

The Collaroy Plateau Public School Robotics Club has experienced new horizons this year, participating in the National First Lego League and all team members demonstrated a high level of dedication to design NXT Robots to undertake set challenges. This opportunity has given club members an insight on effective teamwork and setting achievable problem solving strategies.

As our Robotics Program continues to grow and develop at Collaroy Plateau Public School, we have established new processes to ensure our Robotics Program caters for all students and also extends our gifted and talented students. Some of our new and exciting approaches are students applying to be in the Robotics Club with set criteria. Students have the opportunity to present their application in ways that cater for their preferred learning style. A very successful parent information evening was also held as we value the contribution and partnerships of parents offering to support our Robotics Program.

In addition, constructing and programming NXT Robots will be the ICT focus in Term 3 as all classes from K-6 will have access to set challenges with NXT Robots which will cater for developmental levels. Some of these challenges include the fascinating Robo Artist and the scary haunted house! Our aim is to ensure the principle of inclusive practice is embedded for all students to access an enriching Robotics program that underpins the key fundamentals of teamwork, problem solving and building awareness of the design process.

Avalon’s SRC support a wonderful cause

The Student Representative Council of Avalon Public School, led by its Year 6 members, has conducted two fabulous events towards the end of Term 1 to support students who live and attend school in a far different circumstance from their own.

In 2012, Avalon’s Stage 3 students were fascinated with a presentation given by a visiting 15 year old Nepalese student. She captivated her audience with her look at a normal day in the life in a school child growing up in Nepal. The lack of basic resources in their schools, that our students take for granted, was very enlightening for the Avalon students.

So much so that in 2013, they put a proposal to the SRC to raise funds to do something to provide support of the students in Nepal and to raise awareness of the great need to improve their education.

Avalon is supporting “CanHelp”, an organisation that provides resources, especially in the area of technology, to Nepalese schools. On a recent Friday, a series a fete style stalls were held with all students from K – 6 involved to raise funds. It was a great success and so much fun at the same time.

To finalise the term, a mufti day themed around Disney characters was arranged with all participating students and teachers providing a gold coin donation to again support the cause. As a number of Avalon students said: “It’s great when you can have a lot of fun while raising money that will help kids in schools that have very few resources.”
Multicultural Day Narrabeen Lakes PS

On Thursday 21st March, Narrabeen Lakes was awash with colour and the sounds of music from the world over as our school celebrated Multicultural Day. Performers from Germany, Indonesia, Africa and Australia entertained and enthralled students and teachers alike. While the day was full of laughter and smiles, students also gained a new and deeper appreciation of the diversity of modern Australian society and culture. Thank you, Mrs Hinte for organising such a spectacular occasion for our school.

"Narrabeen Lakes staff formed a band called Narra-vana to entertain the students during the school band fundraising mufti day. Great fun was had by all as the group played old favourites from AC/DC to The Animals!

BYOD and Support Classes at Mona Vale Public School

Mona Vale will be one of the first schools in the country to go “Bring Your Own Device” BYOD where students will be able to bring their own personal mobile technology to school to support their learning. UXC Connect, to support this initiative was delighted to announce its sponsorship of the school and recently donated five new Apple iPad’s to Mona Vale Public School, for use in its Support Unit for students with special educational needs. Rob McCabe, UXC Connect’s Services Director was on hand to present the 4th generation 128 GB iPad’s to the classes and the teachers who will use the tablet devices to assist with the specialised curriculum.

It’s been an exciting and fast moving term for our 3 support classes. In addition to their already dynamic teaching and learning programs, each week the students have been travelling by public bus to Newport Beach for a Special Surf Awareness Program. This has been a truly valuable experience with students developing terrific communication, social skills and independence at the beach, whilst having lots of fun too!
‘Text on Tuesdays’ at Wheeler Heights Primary School

In Term 1 at Wheeler Heights Public School our Year 2 G&T ‘Text on Tuesdays’ group focused on enhancing their writing skills by creating their own magazine on a topic of their choice. To culminate the term, the ‘Text on Tuesdays’ students each put together their magazine on the topic they studied for their readers. Each student included a book review on their chosen topic, jokes, games, editorial comments, information and advertising surrounding their topic of choice. They have produced outstanding pieces of work. These are available in the front office to view for the next few weeks and then they will be moved to the library for other students in the school to read. Congratulations to Ms Alina Loneck and the twelve Year 2 students in the ‘Text on Tuesdays’ group on your beautiful work.

Pittwater High School Hospitality Work Placement

The Pittwater High School PCS Year 12 and the accelerated Year 11 Hospitality students went out into the workplace in Week 8 for their mandatory work placement this term. The students are required to work in a commercial kitchen in industry for 35 hours during the week and are offered the chance to experience the "day to day" running of a kitchen and the establishment.

Venues such as "Wild Clove" in Mona Vale, "Aqua Dining" in North Sydney, "Stella Blue" in Dee Why and "Garfish" in Manly were among some of the establishments they were placed.

Many students found the week quite a challenge with some students starting their day at 6.00am and some students working a night shift until 9.00pm. Quite different from their days at school! As we visited some of the students at their venues we were so pleased to hear the positive feedback from the Head Chefs and thrilled to find that several students had been offered part-time work as a result of their enthusiasm, commitment to the vocation and their highly developed skills in food preparation. The fact that we have the amazing Trade Training Centre at our school certainly helps to familiarise the students with the equipment they use in Industry, thus assisting them to assimilate in the workplace so much more easily. Congratulations to all of the students and their efforts this term.
PCS Young Leaders’ Program Term 1, 2013

The first term of the PCS Young Leaders’ Program was a huge success. All the captains and vice captains of our ten primary schools came together on a Wednesday afternoon at Narrabeen Sports High School to participate in lessons that developed their leadership qualities, ability to work as part of a team, public speaking, planning and presentation skills.

These lessons culminated in fantastic presentations around the theme “Be Active Be Happy.” These presentations showcased the students’ schools and highlighted ways that their communities use physical activity to enhance their lives. The students’ improved team working, delegation, multimedia, role play and public speaking skills made the 2013 presentation morning truly memorable.

Other leaders from our primary schools were involved in the Leadership Hub days which provided sports captains, prefects, school ministers, band captains and other Year 6 school leaders the opportunity to mix with likeminded peers and learn public speaking, team working and environmental leadership skills.

These lessons will be followed up and reviewed in Term 2, when the leaders go to Macquarie University with their hub groups.

The aim of this program is to foster leadership skills within students to assist them with their roles in their school and begin their journey as future leaders of our PCS High Schools and community.

At Newport Public School, The Young Leaders Program has already had a significant impact on the students involved and, over the course of the year, will impact all the students and school community members with the initiatives the captains and vice captains have planned.

The captains and vice captains at Newport interviewed Nick Carroll (surf journalist and prominent member of the Newport Lifesaving Surf Club), Rob Stokes (Member for Pittwater) and Margaret Charlton (Principal of Newport Public School) and discussed ways the community could be improved in light of the “Be Active Be Happy” theme.

From their interviews, the students identified 3 areas in the community for improvement:

- Decrease stormwater pollution at Newport Beach;
- Promote the local walking tracks around the ocean beach headlands and Pittwater as a free way to stay active and enjoy our beautiful natural surrounds; and
- Add to and improve the play equipment for the infants’ children at Newport Public School.

The plan of action that the students have developed includes using the school newsletter and school assemblies to educate students and community members about the problems associated with polluting our storm water drains in an effort to make our beaches cleaner and more appealing for swimming. They also plan to use similar methods to promote the use of our local walking tracks.

The Newport School Parliament will be used as a forum to discuss these matters and motivate the student body into raising money to help improve the play facilities in the school and further discuss these issues.

This example is only one of ten produced by the Young Leaders as a result of their participation in the program this term. It demonstrates the deep, relevant, contextual learning that has taken place in the program and the flow on effects the students’ learning can have on the whole student body in individual schools and the community as a whole.
Narrabeen Sports High School

The smile of success.

Congratulations to Moritz Fath, Brian De Bono, Jye McDonough and Daniel Jenkins who completed in the 16 years boys 4 x 50 m relay at the State Championships. The boys achieved a creditable 7th in the final. The finishing for 4th through to 7th place was very close. The boys have been training hard for a month leading up to this event and can be very proud of their achievement. Moritz, is heading to the National competition for swimming for his individual efforts.

Capitalising on leadership

The PCS (Peninsula Community of Schools) Student Leaders Program presentations made by students from each of the ten partner schools were fantastic. The event was hosted by Narrabeen’s very own Hayley, Jessica, Jayden and Joshua who demonstrated their own leadership capabilities. The presentation was attended by the Hon. Robert Stokes, Member for Pittwater, the Mayor Jacqueline Townsend, School Education Director Dean White and the Principals from each of the partner schools and focussed upon the theme ‘Be Active Be Happy’. The program encouraged students honing their skills in terms of communicating, working in teams and showing creativity and initiative.

A matter for the Minister

On Tuesday, April 9th Narrabeen hosted the Hon. Graham Annesley, State Minister for Sport and Recreation, who visited our school to view the fantastic facilities put into place in recent years. The Minister spoke to the Academy students about the importance of sport and commitment.

Whilst he was touring the Minister saw mentoring sessions, strength and conditioning workshops and games.

Mr Stokes and the Academy staff are acknowledged for organising and co-ordinating the outstanding display put on by Narrabeen Students.
Barrenjoey High School welcomes Joel Parkinson to Surfaid International.

In May Joel Parkinson, the winner of the 2012 World Surfing Championships visited Barrenjoey High School to accept his appointment as Surfaid’s ambassador.

Surfaid is the international aid agency that was started by surfers to assist areas of Indonesia, especially the islands around Mantawai, Kepulauan and Nias. It now helps with fresh water, mosquito netting, safety planning, emergency relief and mother-child education and early intervention programs.

However, the early days of Surfaid started with school based education programs in NSW that includes resources supporting Geography, Commerce and Health. These education programs started at Barrenjoey High School back in 2002 with teacher Milton Brown writing the first ones. These units of work are now taught in the High Schools of the PCS.

Joel presented to over 100 students including Geography and elective classes. He was interviewed by Louis Alston, of Year 8, on issues around the importance of Surfaid, surfing and global citizenship. Joel’s message to help those who need it when you are in a position to do so is critical in sharing the responsibility of international aid.

Milton Brown and other Surfaid representatives were on hand to welcome Joel as their new ambassador.

2013 Schools Reconciliation Challenge

Barrenjoey High art students, Abbey Bain and Decoda Knowles from Year 9 received First Place in the Year 9/10 category of the 2013 Schools Reconciliation Challenge. This challenges students to see Reconciliation through the eyes of young people.

Abbey and Decoda’s artwork, Amaroo will be framed and exhibited in the Australian Museum between May and August this year.