Calendar Events

Week 9
Monday 23 June       Zone Athletics
Tuesday 24 June      Zone Athletics
Wed 25 June         Variety Night
Friday 27 June       Years 7-10 Reports posted

LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Term 3, Week 1
Tuesday 15 July  School resumes for all
students 7-12

From the Principal

Teach Week
By the time you receive this newsletter, the Future Teachers will be immersed in our inaugural Teach Week. Teach Week is a celebration of teaching and involves our Future Teachers, in partnership with our current teachers, teaching, observing, planning, evaluating and providing feedback, as well as coaching students during sport, working with our colleagues in the primary school and generally gaining an broader experience of what a teacher really does!

Professional Partnerships – learning beyond the local
In the 21st century teacher’s world, it is no longer enough to make links with the teachers in the school next door. More and more, we are encouraged to connect with practitioners in regions beyond our local networks and at Macquarie Fields, we have done just that, by linking with Prairiewood (south western Sydney), Narrandera HS, Narrandera East Infants, Narrandera Primary and Yanco Agricultural High School. By combining two of our major initiatives, the Leadership Alliance (for staff) and the Future Teachers (for students), we have developed a wonderful learning experience which aims to develop leadership capacity and professional skills for teachers and students alike in all the partner schools. Our Future Teachers were able to deliver lessons, participate in lesson observations and gain an appreciation of what the boarding school experience is like during our recent visit to the Riverina and they were treated to an extensive tour of the district, a BBQ and real country bonfire and were even able to toast marshmallows (despite the

PARENTS NOTE
Students Absent From School
Where a student is absent from school, a note explaining the absence must be received by the school within 7 school days. Where a note is not received the absence will be recorded as unjustified. This cannot legally be changed should a note be received after 7 days. Absences both justified and unjustified are recorded on school reports.

Recipients of PBL Raffle Prize Draw

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torrential rain) and, above all, make connections and friendships which will be fostered through further visits by Yanco AHS to Sydney in Term 4. The teachers were able to establish or renew, professional links with the staff in these schools and we aim to continue working together on an ongoing professional basis.

Major events such as this do not happen on their own and I am very grateful to Mr Perry Celestino, the driving force behind the Future Teachers as well as to the principals of all the participating schools: Mr Alan Maclean (Prairiewood HS), Mr Gary Hunt (Narrandera HS), Mr Mark Hair (Narrandera HS), Mrs Sue Ruffles (Narrandera PS), Mrs Karen Babbs (Narrandera East Infants). Special thanks to Mr Daryl Finch, Principal of Yanco Agricultural HS for being so willing to host the visit and for allowing several students to experience living in the dorms and sharing the boarding routines, to Mr and Mrs Draper, for so generously opening up their farm to accommodate our BBQ and bonfire and to Miss Amy Dolstra (HT English/History) who coordinated the visit from the Yanco end. Thanks, too, to all the staff at these partner schools. We know how much work these types of activities are and really appreciate your support of this valuable program. We look forward to hosting a return visit in Term 4. Later in this newsletter, there is a report by Kasvi Luthra, about her experience as a boarder for just a few days! Dylan Scarborough has also written an article about the visit by a group of Future Teachers to the University of Sydney recently. Both articles make interesting reading!
One of our friendly guides, Max (Year 8)

Many of our students had never seen sheep shearing or touched raw wool! This is a normal school day for agriculture students at Yanco!

All hands on deck to cook the BBQ!

Mr Finch, principal of Yanco AHS, conducts a tour through McCaughey House, the main administration building at the school which dates back to the early part of the 20th century and is said to be haunted! It is a heritage listed building.

Reports and Parent Teacher Evening
Reports for Years 7 – 10 are being posted home and should reach you during the holidays. In the package will also be information on how to book into Parent Teacher Evening for Years 7 – 10. This evening will be held on Tuesday 22 July. There will also be information regarding subject selection meeting for students in Year 8 into 9 (2015) which will be held on the same evening.

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST STUDENTS FROM CHINA

Macquarie Fields High School is hosting a group of students from China from 3-11 August 2014.

We are seeking families willing to billet a student or students during this period. Families would receive a small payment to cover incidental expenses. During the school week, the visiting students will attend our school and participate in lessons. Activities have been arranged by the organisers for the weekend of the visit.

Please contact Ms Stojceva if you would like to host a student/s.
Student Leaders meet the Governor

Dylan and Teressa with the Governor of NSW

Each year, two student leaders from each secondary school are invited to meet the Governor of NSW and also see the NSW Parliament in action. This Year, Dylan Scarborough and Teressa Bernardo were the students selected for this honour and last week attended the parliamentary Education Workshop, followed by a visit to meet the Governor, Her Excellency Dame Professor Marie Bashir. The Governor was very keen to share her knowledge and experience of leadership with all the visiting students and afterwards was very happy to pose for photos. She was also very pleased to meet students from Macquarie Fields as she has a special interest in Governor Macquarie and his relationship with James Meehan, on whose land grant our school rests.

Farewells and Welcomes

The end of the term brings changes to our teaching team and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Dr Sam Tharayagan all the best on his retirement. Filling the Mathematics vacancy will be Miss Janelle Watts. In History we welcome Miss Melissa Collins and Miss Carol Fong and bid farewell to Ms Wano and Ms Bell who have been filling these vacancies on a temporary basis. I would like to thank all three teachers for their efforts in ensuring our students achieve the very best learning outcomes possible and I wish them all the best for the future.

As the term is fast coming to a close, I would like to wish you all a safe and restful break!

Mrs J Dolstra  
Principal

History/Languages Faculty

New Staff Members

We welcome two new permanent teachers to the faculty: Ms Carol Fong and Ms Melissa Collins who both commence next term. We warmly welcome them to the faculty and know they will have a wonderful teaching experience at our school. Sadly, this means we must farewell Ms Wano and Ms Bell who have been doing an outstanding job filling these positions in a temporary capacity. We wish them all the best in their future teaching careers.

ANZAC Garden/ANZAC Ceremony

This year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Ms Sullivan organised for her Year 9 class to plan and design a memorial garden in the school grounds. As part of a DEC initiative ‘Adopt a Veteran’ Ms Sullivan respectfully approached the RSL for funding to purchase trees and shrubs. The students as part of their new Australian Curriculum unit - Australians at War, researched the names and service history of local veterans and had commemorative plaques place alongside the tree beds. A special thanks to Roger and Don for their work in planting the garden beds and trees and to Year 8 Visual art students who painted the Lest We Forget at the entrance to the garden. Our Year 9 students and School Captains Tanya Costillas and Sidarth Autar conducted this year’s ANZAC Service at school. The President of the Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch, Mr Ray James was invited as an official guest and officially opened the garden on behalf of the RSL and the veteran’s families. Thanks to Louise Heath, Roger Worthington and Don Dean for their help in organising and planting the ANZAC Garden.
DAWN SERVICE
Our School Captains Sidarth Autar and Tanya Costillas were invited by the RSL to present to ANZAC address at the DAWN SERVICE on ANZAC day at Ingleburn RSL. The students wrote a very stirring and emotive speech which they delivered with great reverence and respect. Our Captains were invited to a special breakfast after the Dawn Service where they were personally thanked by the RSL for delivery of the ANZAC address.

I would like to thank Miss Sullivan for all her great work creating the ANZAC garden and running the ANZAC Day Ceremony with her Year 9 students.

Mr Hollis has managed this task very successfully and we have over 19 students who have paid their deposits for this trip. We hope to include this as a regular overseas excursion for our faculty.

European Tour 2015
Mr Hollis has been extremely busy planning a European study tour for our students to France and Italy in the January school holidays. Students will have the benefit of a guest lecture from Dr Estelle Lazer who has written a number of the textbooks for the HSC and personally talking to the students about all the sites in Pompeii and Herculaneum, many of which are part of the Ancient HSC examination.

Coral/Balmoral
Our Year 9 students were again ambassadors for Macquarie Field High school at the Battle of Coral-Balmoral commemorative service held at Ingleburn RSL. The students Vijaishree Kumar, Jessica Madanat and Tanaya Berde laid a wreath on behalf of the school community and were part of a group of schools and dignitaries including the United States and New Zealand Consular representatives.
Technology for Learning: New Ipads

This year we have spent money from our technology funds to purchase another 20 Ipads (Ipad 4s) for students to enrich their use of technology in the classroom. We have also purchased Bluetooth keyboards and digital history textbook for the new Australian Curriculum units and some interesting new apps for **Japanese, French and German languages**. Mr Hollis is working hard to keep our faculty technology platform up and running and engaging for student learning.

**Australian Curriculum new textbooks**
We have fully implemented the Australia Curriculum for History 7-10. As a trial school for the DEC we are ahead of other schools in this regard and have created and trailed our scope of assessment tasks and teaching and learning programs. In each year group we have linked many of the new topics such as Ancient China, Ancient Japan and Australians at War to either technology-rich learning environments, using Ipad’s or project based ‘hands on history’ tasks.

**Project Based Learning Kennedy Assassination – Case Closed**

As part of the project, each group had to present one assassination theory or conspiracy and refute the theories of other groups.

The hypothetical style debate was held in the TLS and Mr Tishler, Mr Celestino and Mrs Marcia Majarich from the library where the esteemed panel of judges, who had the difficult task of deciding on the winning team. The students presented some great historical material and advanced some new theories using technology to present their case.

**Canberra- Australian War Memorial Excursion**

Again this year students are heading off to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra as part of their compulsory site-study for the Australian Curriculum unit, *Australians at War*. We are expanding on last year and taking two coaches and 100 students to visit the memorial and lay a wreath at the cenotaph. Students will also visits the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and pay their respects at the Pool of Remembrance. Students always enjoy this excursion, as do staff.
HSC Study Day Sydney University

This term Ms Kensett has organised a senior excursion to Sydney University to for our Year 12 Ancient and Modern History students to attend the HSC Study Days. These days are very popular amongst students and staff across NSW and are invaluable for both student learning and teacher professional development. I thank Ms Kensett for taking on the challenge of organising such an important day for our senior students in the led up the Higher School Certificate examination.

Yanco Trip 2014

On the 25th of May a group of 50 students set off from our school on a 6 hour drive to an agricultural high school, Yanco. We stayed there for a total of 3 nights and some of us were fortunate enough to have the opportunity of staying in the dorms with the students of Yanco.

All the girls staying in the dorms were placed in year 9 dorms. There was one really big permanent building which had two floors and a lot of rooms, each room accommodating for 4-5 girls. There was also a junior rec-room and a senior rec-room. While a few girls stayed here, the rest of us stayed in demountable dorms. These would accommodate for approximately 10 or so year 9 girls. In addition to this, the year 9 girls would be mentored by two year 11 dorm prefects who would have their separate room within the demountable building.

There was a central heating system within the dorm which was essential because the temperature dropped significantly during the night. The girls all had their bed, some storage space under their beds, a study table and a large wardrobe with a little mirror in it. A lot of the girls had lots of posters and photos stuck up on their wardrobes and desks. It was a very welcoming environment and really made me feel at home. The dorms definitely aren't as dull as you’d expect, everyone kind of decorates their little area almost like you would with a bedroom.

On my first night there, one of the girls actually came up with a little surprise quiz about country slang and their school. So we actually sat together in a big circle on the floor and they had a lot of questions to ask me about our school and a lot of questions about the FTC club. There was an instant sense of belonging with the girls in my dorm and my experience at Yanco wouldn’t have been half as fun without them. It’s honestly like having a sleepover every night.

The second morning that we were there, one of the girls was actually going to visit her horse at 6 in the morning and so I decided to tag along. Interestingly, many of the students have their own horses and have to provide some maintenance in the morning and in the afternoon. A lot of these students also do horse electives or subjects if they take a lot of interest. The horses are actually full-sized and they have to be fed in the morning, their water bucket has to be re-filled and their stables have to be cleaned. It was really good to see that the students are brought up with so much discipline and consistency and they are definitely affectionate towards their animals.

I think that staying in the dorms was one of the best parts of my experiences at Yanco. I made a total of 12 great friends while staying there for only 3 nights. The girls were more than welcoming and genuinely treated me as a friend and a colleague. On my last night there, I didn’t fail to give them a little quiz in return and I learnt a lot from them as I hope they did from me. I was actually sad to leave the dorm and say goodbye to the girls but fortunately, I can keep in touch with them on social networks. They also promised me that when their school visits ours, they will definitely be here and that’s something I’ll be looking forward to.

Kasvi Luthra
Departing Macquarie Fields Station at a very brisk and bright 7:30am, the group left with great anticipation, accompanied by school Principal Jan Dolstra, and the clubs’ founder, Perry Celestino.

“We sat in on a lecture and a tutorial, we learnt all about the instructional core” said one of the Future Teachers, Year 11 student Kristie McIntosh. “The core focuses on the three main pillars of education; the student, the teacher and the content, and includes the relationship between the three. We learnt about the importance of quality teaching and what makes a good teacher”, she added.

The group was lectured by the university’s Director of Professional Experience, Dr Tony Loughland and shared a lecture theatre with university students, studying various degrees in teaching.

“We are very honoured to have students from Macquarie Fields here today, one of our partner schools. It’s wonderful to return the favour, as some of you (university students) visited them recently, and we have some members of their Future Teachers club here with us today,” shared Dr Loughland.

Dr Loughland then went on to make special mention of Mr Celestino, sharing with his students the extent of the American’s teaching experience. “Mr Celestino started teaching in 1973, when I was in Year 1!”.

Overall, the group had a fantastic day at Sydney University and were in awe of the lifestyle which its students led, the views of the city, the abundance of knowledge and the similarities of the campus to that of Hogwarts... “I'm always appreciating the work our teachers do for us, the extent of their planning and the skills necessary to control an effective classroom and enhance an education” stated a reflective Vice-Captain, Jaanvi Kapadia at the conclusion of the day.

“I wouldn’t see all these things, and be open to learning this much if the FTC didn’t exist” she added.