Focus on Science

Snake Tails

Year 7 students enjoyed an interactive learning experience where they were able to get up close and personal with a number of different reptiles. Snake Tails is a mobile display that aimed to demystify and increase students’ understanding of reptile behaviours and their place within the environment.

Students were encouraged to participate in discussions about the features and characteristics of reptiles, which complemented the ‘Living Things’ unit currently being studied by students. Volunteers were taken from the audience to assist in displaying natural reptile behaviours. One student acted as a ‘tree’ while a Bearded Dragon displayed its tree climbing skills. Other reptiles on display, included an Olive python, Blue-tongue lizard, Shingleback lizard and an Eastern Long-Necked Turtle. Students also appreciated the opportunity for visual recognition of the 4 deadly snakes we find in NSW (in tamper proof boxes!).

During the presentation there was a strong safety message for students. Students were made aware of the danger of attempting to kill or apprehend snakes that they may encounter.

At the close of the presentation students were given the opportunity to handle all of the ‘safe’ reptiles. The lizards were very popular and the braver students enjoyed the opportunity to have an Olive python wrapped around them. Congratulations to all our keen participants in “Snaketails”.
The Science and Engineering Challenge is a day-long competition presented by the University of Newcastle in conjunction with local Rotary clubs. The Challenge is designed to provide Stage 5 High School students with a positive “hands on” experience of science and engineering. The event was held in Orange.

The Science and Engineering Challenge provides a unique occasion to expose students to a series of real world challenges, where they have to reach beyond their normal skill sets and experience. The organisers supplied a comprehensive range of equipment, not generally found in schools, giving students the opportunity to not only use their natural talents, but also utilise new and specialised equipment.

Eight different challenges are provided for each school to complete during the day, either full day challenges or half day challenges. Challenges are varied and vastly different from each other catering for a vast range of interests. Activities included:

- building a model bridge to carry ‘gold’ ingots from one side to the other.
- building a catapult that can fire a tennis ball accurately over a long distance.
- setting up a scale model of an electrical transmission grid
- building a tower that withstands a static load as well as a simulated earthquake
- building and flying a model hovercraft that is fast and manoeuvrable
- building a suspension system for a simple Mars buggy
- building a balloon-powered car
- designing and building cutting-edge water circulation network.

Bathurst High Campus finished sixth overall for the day. Highlights of the day were a first in the balloon-powered car, (Mikayla Lay, Renee Stephens, Chloe Adams, Jordan Stapleton) two second places in the tower building activity (Nic Bruce, Harry Doble, Nic Irwin) and (Sierra Flynn-O’Brien, Maddy Gottschau) and a third in the catapult (Nic Muller, Ryan Newell, Annabel Tremain).
A fun, educational and successful day was had by all who attended the Science and Engineering Challenge. Thanks to The University of Newcastle for organizing the event, Rotary club for their support, and the wonderful students of Bathurst High School for their participation.

Fired up with a catapult: 3rd place BHC

Hovercraft construction

Mars Buggy

Water circulation

Balloon powered car; 1st Place to BHC
iExplore

iExplore kicked off successfully in week 5 of Term 1 in Science. Mr Donaldson lead the charge by enthusing Year 6 students from Eglington Public School. There was great excitement in the air as the students gained a first-hand experience in exploring a number of familiar and unfamiliar concepts in the Science laboratory.

Weeks 6 and 7 saw Mrs Laniya welcome another very excited group of students from Bathurst Public School and West Bathurst public schools as well as students from the non-government sector enrolling at BHC. During their time in the Science faculty, students participated in a variety of hands-on activities relating to the subject areas of Physics and Chemistry. Activities ranged from investigating how chemical reactions work to understanding the scientific principle behind the floating of objects.

The Year 6 students were exposed to manipulating scientific equipment and also experienced the collaborative nature of working in a Science laboratory. Overall the students had a wonderful time and left with a pleasant insight to the engaging and contemporary nature of Science at Bathurst High.
Term 1 was a very exciting time for Year 7 students in the Science Faculty who began their introduction to Science with the topic of Mixtures and Separations. Throughout the term, the students had learnt about the different types of mixtures and the methods by which they could be separated. The new knowledge which the students had acquired was made even more significant by placing it in context of everyday scenarios.
To this end, an excursion was planned to the Bathurst Waste Water Treatment Works for the students of 7D and 7M.

The students were taken on a tour of the treatment facility in two separate groups by experienced and enthusiastic staff. The visit proved to be a valuable learning experience for all students in attendance as they had the opportunity to see a real life situation in which separation methods such as filtration and decanting were being utilised on an industrial scale to purify effluent water from the community.

Overall this practical approach to learning in Science proved to be a successful strategy for all the students involved, as they were able to make connections between science in the laboratory and the real world.

Bathurst High thanks the staff of the Waste Water Treatment Facility and we look forward to further exciting visits in the future.
Trial On-Line Parent/Teacher Booking System
Bathurst High is trialling the Millennium On-Line Booking system for Years 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Evening. The Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Evening is on Wednesday 21st May 4-6pm.

Parents can book an interview with their child’s teachers from 12pm Tuesday 13th May.

Instructions: All you have to do is go to the Millennium portal:

Menu – just above the website link, click ‘Parent interviews’. You will see a list of enabled interview times and your child’s name. Click on ‘Add Booking’ and click on the time slot to book the interview.

If you do not have a log in, please phone the office 63313755 or use our Bathurst High App to send a text message requesting a log in. We will need your email address to be able to provide a log in.

If you do not have internet, please phone the office to book the interviews.

We are one of the first schools to trial this Millennium booking system and we will be seeking your feedback at the Parent/Teacher Evening. We look forward to seeing parents of students in Years 11 and 12 on the 21st May.

Leadership Team Success
The Leukaemia Foundation have written to congratulate the Leadership Team for organising the World’s Greatest Shave and thank them for the donation of $2,300. We thank the school community for their support and generosity. We have a proud tradition of generously supporting those in need and each year the new Leadership Team determines the organisations they will support.

Gymnasium
Construction is on schedule and the finishing touches to the inside are under way. Landscaping has also commenced. We have all watched the construction through the various stages and are very excited as the building works progress through the final stages.

Animal Nursery at the Bathurst Show
What a wonderful exhibition created and staffed by our TAS teachers and students. For the first time we were able to display live fish to demonstrate our aquaculture facility. I am sure all who braved the cold weather to visit the Bathurst Show and joined us at the Animal Nursery would agree it was superb.

Nanga Mai Award
Last term Tyrone Murray was awarded a Nanga Mai Award for public speaking. The Nanga Mai Awards are awarded annually for outstanding achievement in Aboriginal education.

During NAIDOC celebrations in 2013 Bathurst High took part in the second annual Western Region NAIDOC Debating Challenge. On the Morning of the debate, the school’s second speaker was absent due to unforeseen circumstances. Tyrone, who was in Year 8 at the time and at extremely short notice volunteered to fill the position.

Tyrone, created an argument which he presented clearly, concisely and with confidence to a large audience of students, staff and members of the community.

This resulted in Bathurst High being placed third in the debating challenge.

Not only did Tyrone show admirable school spirit by volunteering, he proved himself to be a supportive and selfless member of the team, contributing to the debating team’s success.

Congratulations to Tyrone for this achievement.
College Staff
With Mr Browning’s departure for Mudgee HS, Catherine Reid joins the college staff as Head Teacher Senior Studies (Relieving) at Bathurst High for the remainder of 2014.

Combined School Development Day
Staff from both campuses met at Kelso High on day one this term to undertake some intensive training as part of our combined focus on further improving literacy results across the college.

The focus for professional learning on this day was on teaching writing and staff were supported through the expertise of Lyndall Harrison, a highly-regarded literacy specialist, who has worked extensively with primary and secondary schools throughout western NSW.

Senior Assessments
Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations were completed during the last weeks of Term 1. Year 11 students are currently preparing for the Mid-Course Assessment Cycle which is scheduled for Week 3.

It is critical that all students are fully prepared for the ongoing assessment items throughout their senior years, and that they work closely with their class teachers and Year Advisors as well as the Head Teachers Senior Studies (Mrs Murphy and Ms Reid), particularly in the event of illness or misadventure.

Year 6 Information Nights
Parents and Year 6 students from our partner schools attended information sessions at both campuses on the evening of Wednesday 6th May. These evenings are part of the extensive transition process across the college to ensure that the move from Year 6 to 7 is as smooth as possible. Families enjoyed very informative presentations from teaching staff and program coordinators before taking a tour of the campuses.

Students will continue to participate in the iLearn and iexplore programs at Kelso and Bathurst High Campuses throughout the year before a final Welcome Year 7 2015 Night in November and the official Year 6 Orientation Day in early December.

Families seeking additional information should contact their designated secondary campus. Ms Townend (Kelso HC) and Ms Burt (Bathurst HC) can also provide additional assistance.

Craig Petersen
College Principal
McKenzie Barwick has been successful in gaining selection in the Western Region Dance Ensemble. McKenzie will spend 4 days working with the Ensemble and then perform at the Western Region Dance Festival to be held in Bathurst on the 10th June. The Ensemble will also perform at the State Dance Festival in September. This is a great opportunity for McKenzie and we wish her well.

Emma Jackson has also been representing Bathurst High in equestrian events. In the Evans Crown Horse Sports Day Emma was one point off winning the reserve champion. She also competed in the St Stanislaus College Show Jumping and Scots School Highland Gathering. This weekend she will compete in the All Saints Show Jumping Competition and in May will venture to Coonabarabran for the Horse Expo.

Congratulations to John Attard who has been named junior citizen of the month for May. John is an active member of our SRC and a student that always shows commitment and enthusiasm in everything he undertakes.

Year 7 and 9 students will be almost finished their NAPLAN tests by the time this newsletter is published. Students have been well prepared for these and we are always very impressed with their commitment to doing their very best.

This is a busy time of the term with students completing assessment tasks for their semester 1 reports. The library is open on Wednesday afternoons until 5pm for students who would like to work on homework and assignments. A Maths tutor is also available during this time. If students are having difficulty completing work they need to talk to their teachers or student advisers so support can be organised.

I will be taking some leave from the 28th May for the rest of the term. Mr Patrick Ford the Head Teacher Technology, will be relieving in my position. I look forward to returning at the start of term three.
Welcome back to a busy Term 2. This term is certainly going to be very hectic for all of the staff and students at Bathurst High, particularly our Senior Students.

By now, Year 12 students should have received their Higher School Certificate Mid Course Examination papers back from their teachers. These are an invaluable learning tool. The feedback students have been given from individual teachers should guide them towards achieving greater success. Students are urged to take on board suggestions from their teachers and use their recommendations to assist on the journey of improvement. I have had great delight in reading Yr 12 report comments commending many students on improved efforts or results.

Year 11 will complete their Preliminary Mid Course Assessments during scheduled lessons in Week 3 of this term, beginning Monday 12th May. Hopefully, all students have been preparing thoroughly and will be well equipped to attempt these assessments with confidence. These assessment items will assist teachers in providing quality feedback on student performance, as well as suggest areas in which to improve. If you are absent for any reason during this assessment period, please make sure you see Ms Sheader in Mrs Dunshea’s office. I wish our Yr 11 students all the best as they undertake the assessment tasks.

Finally, a little bit of advance warning. On Wednesday 21st May there will be a Parent/Teacher night for students studying in Years 11 and 12. More information will be distributed later, but mark it down in your diary! This is an invaluable time to discuss your student’s progress with each of their teachers. Research indicates that when parents are involved in their child’s education, greater success is experienced. Hope to see you there.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your student, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Avril Sheader
(rel) Deputy Principal
Senior School
The athletics carnival was held on the 18th March, 2014 at the Bathurst Sports Ground. We were greeted by a beautiful day of sunshine and clear skies with perfect conditions for students to gain excellent results. Students attended in great numbers thus improving the outcomes for all involved. The participation rate of the students was amazing and made the day very enjoyable. School spirit was very evident with age groups cheering for each other and recognising amazing performances by their fellow students. There really were some inspirational demonstrations of outstanding effort in all the age groups. It is always great to see students who are willing to get the very best out of themselves no matter the physical exhaustion or pain that may follow. It was great to see so many parents and relatives of the students there, and we look forward to seeing you all again at the Astley Cup events.

As per usual Rocky and his co-chefs cooked amazing food for everyone and special thanks goes out to them. Special thanks go to the SRC and TAS teachers for their service at the canteen and to the data entry teachers who kept the results accurate and clear. Thanks to Bathurst Buslines for transporting the students and teachers to the venue.

Thanks again to everyone involved, it was a great day!

Josh Lawler
2014 Athletics Carnival cont.....
2014 Athletics Carnival cont...

BHC 2014 Athletics Carnival
Open Girls Football
The open girls played their first game for the season on Friday 2nd May, 2014 against Mudgee High. The girls went on the attack from the kickoff spending much of the game in the oppositions half. Despite many shots on goal and some strong keeping from the Mudgee goalie we were able to break through for an early goal and continue to apply pressure. The girls were leading 4 nil by half time with a final score of 6 nil. (Hayley Cheney 3, Emma Siejka 1, Blair Rankine 1, Alora Dickson 1)

A big thankyou to the Rooke family for the new uniforms they look fantastic and were really appreciated by the girls.

The next game will see the girls play either Cowra High or Kelso High.

Western Region Representatives
Lydia Nancarrow, Annabel Meadley and Hayley Cheney are representing the school and Western Region at the State Titles in Armidale this week Good luck girls!

Library News

BATHURST HIGH'S EBOOK LENDING PLATFORM IS HERE!!

Go to: http://bhc.wheelers.co/ to register for borrowing.
More information will be available in the next newsletter.
Coming Events

- 14th May 2014  •  Naplan Yr 7 and 9
- 15th May 2014  •  Naplan Yr 7 and 9
- 16th May 2014  •  Naplan Yr 7 and 9
- 21st May 2014  •  Yr 11 and 12 Parent/Teacher evening
- 28th May 2014  •  iExplore Food Tech, Ag and Visual Arts
- 4th June 2014  •  P & C Meeting 7.30pm

Please note....

P & C
Bathurst High Campus P&C meets the 1st Wednesday of each month.
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th June in the staffroom at 7.30pm.
Hope to see you there.

P & C email address pandc.bathursths@gmail.com