We are already half way through the year and it has been packed full of experiences for students and staff in the HSIE department, both inside and outside the classroom. With the second phase of the new Australian curriculum, some of the Year 8 students were able to recreate mock Viking Battles in History.

Year 7 students have spent the semester learning their way around High School which we hope was helped through their growing knowledge of mapping skills in Geography.

Mr Grace took Year 10 History students on a tour of the Historic sites of Bathurst as part of the 200 Year Celebrations. Year 10 Geography travelled to Collaroy as part of their Coastal Erosion topic.

Commerce students have been learning about the Australian Stock Exchange through their involvement in the ASX Game. The students have been battling with others across Australia to be the champion of stock trading. Students undertake research into share trading and trade, based on real world data. The game builds both financial management and research skills. They have also ventured out to the CBD, visiting the court house and local businesses in their study of Law in Action and Business. Year 9 Commerce students are currently developing a creative presentation as part of the Australia Wide Consumer Competition. The students select a consumer issue and must communicate this issue in a creative and educational manner. The students are in the running to win $2500 for their work group and also up to $5000 for the school. They have a month before final submission and the work is looking very good so far.

And still there’s more…

The Legal Studies students have also had a variety of educational experiences throughout the semester, visiting the local court and a trip to Sydney to see how the court system works. These students have also been lucky enough to experience a local speaker as part of Law Week. We would like to thank Evan Dowd from Macintosh and McPhillamy for his time and this valuable experience. Economics students will also be heading to Sydney next semester to the Reserve Bank to further their understanding of the role it plays in our economy. Business Studies students are busy developing their entrepreneurial skills and decision making ability through their involvement in the CSU Business Simulation. The Year 11 students make business decisions to develop and sell a mobile phone on a global market place. They must make decisions related to the key areas of Business, which will help them connect the theory to real world understanding.

Senior History students have been able to experience the knowledge of Ken Webb in person, a major aspect of their study in this subject. Some of these same students were lucky enough to travel overseas with the Society and Culture class on an experience of a lifetime to Cambodia and Vietnam. We would like to thank Ms Diamond for the massive amount of organising that went into this combined campus trip and Ms Waldron and Mr Madden for giving up their holidays to supervise.

In all this hustle and bustle, HSIE would like to welcome Ms McAlister and Mr Harlor to the department who are both filling temporary positions for the year. We would also like to congratulate Mr Gilmer on finally becoming a permanent member of the department. We look forward to the next semester also being full of educational experiences.
HSIE cont.....

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V I E T N A M
Denison College Bathurst and Kelso Campus International Excursion

During the April school holidays, Society and Culture students from both campuses travelled to Vietnam and Cambodia to do a cross cultural examination of both countries. An outstanding group of students, they were real troopers, uncomplaining through extreme heat, snake and spider encounters, and a tour of Angkor Wat during the Khmer New Year and a one million crowd surge. Beginning our journey in the amazing city of Ho Chi Minh City, also described as the Paris of Asia due to the cities French colonial heritage reflected in the architecture. Students explored city walk ways, cafes and restaurants enjoying local cuisine, and dared to cross the bustling roads that seemed to be filled with the 12.87 million occupants, who would only give a passing nod to road rules. Visiting the Women’s and War remnants museum students learnt about cultural differences and similarities. They were also confronted by the impact of conflict on a society, their knowledge further deepened with a visit to an orphanage for children affected by Agent Orange. Students also struggled through extreme heat without complaint while visiting the Mekong Orchid and Snake farm, Cao Dai temple, and Cu Chi tunnels. The list goes on as the itinerary was extensive.

Cambodia was next and the first stop was at a road side market where students enjoyed local cuisine such as Forest Tarantula, and Grasshopper. Whilst in Cambodia students again learnt about how conflict can greatly affect a society. Having learned about the Pol Pot regime, a humbled and respectful group visited both S-21 Prison and Choeung Ek Killing Fields. Understanding the deep impact that this legacy has on the Cambodian people invoked the best in students who were compassionate and met every Cambodian with open arms. Though there was sadness there is always time to embrace the positive aspects of any society. Students visited a school for children who were orphaned as a result of AIDS and some of which were infected by the virus. Gifts were shared, colouring pencils and paper, jewellery, sporting equipment, but most of all smiles and hugs. Students also visited Tonle Sap Lake where entire villages live stateless on the lake. At this time we entered a school and orphanage for Vietnamese who had fled the violence during the Vietnam War and were still living on the lake. Again our students took to giving with kindness and joy that is sure to make their parents proud. I know as a teacher I can only say that all students were genuinely remarkable ambassadors for Denison College. As an educator I cannot express enough the outstanding nature of the students on this trip. Some may say the trip changed them by opening their eyes to the suffering of others, I would say that the trip simply illuminated their true nature as kind, warm, thoughtful, intelligent and generous human beings.

Our final days were spent visiting Angkor Wat Temple complex. We were there during the Khmer New Year, the biggest holiday of their year with over 1 million Cambodians descending on the temple complex. As it was New Year there were many activities around, including a world record attempt at the largest number of people dancing for an extended period of time. Australia had previously held the record. Students were awakened to just how many people were in the complex when they cheered at the mention of Australia’s previous record and 1 million Cambodians turned around to see who was cheering. The majestic Temples were awe inspiring and many were left in awe by their amazing engineering and beauty. The tour ended with a ride on elephants through the temple grounds. Then a tuk tuk ride back to the hotel while students called to locals, ‘Sok Sabay, Ch’nam Tmey’ (Happy New Year!). The local people responded by sprinkling coloured water all over students and staff. I think it’s safe to say we smiled all day.
"Year 10 Geography Coastal Excursion"

A number of Year 10 Geography students travelled to Collaroy as part of their Coastal Erosions topic. These students escaped the cold weather for a beach excursion to sunny Collaroy on Sydney’s northern beaches.

The aim of the excursion was to experience field work and develop an understanding of human impact on coastal environments. The weather was exceptional as was the timing of the trip. Recent storm activity had exposed the beach to severe gauging. Issues associated with building houses on the fore dune were clearly evident following the recent storms. Another key issue identified was potential future problems associated with climate change and rising sea levels. The students were left to consider what the beach will look like in another 100 years with a 90cm sea level rise predicted. The students had the opportunity to take climatic readings such as wind speed and direction. After leaving at 6.30am and then returning at 6.30pm it was a big day for all involved.

A big thanks goes to Miss Sapak who was responsible for organising this excursion.

Thank you to all the parents for meeting the cost of the trip and to the students for making the effort to be involved.
Legal Studies– Expert Speaker

Legal Studies students from both Kelso and Bathurst High Campuses were involved in an incursion last week to listen to expert advice from an experienced Criminal Lawyer. Evan Dowd from local firm McIntosh McPhillamy & Co Solicitors visited the school speaking for an hour on topics associated with the HSC topic Crime. He spoke expertly about current issues related to law reform and provided detailed information required for cases he has worked on and significant cases of interest.

The advantage of this information is that the students will be able to reuse this information during their HSC examinations to show they have real world understanding as well as theoretically understanding the legal system.

Evan was contacted through the NSW Law Foundation who help promote legal education.

Evan has offered to make himself available for students closer to the HSC Examination and will return for a small group session with the current Year 12 HSC students. This session is aimed at providing them with specific cases to use in their other focus topics including Human Rights and Family.

We hope these sessions will support the students in achieving the highest result possible in this very competitive subject.
This newsletter was not published on line at the end of last term so I will add a short note before posting it on line tomorrow. I will be Relieving Principal until Tuesday 2nd September when Geoff returns from his well deserved long service leave. Alexa Barr will continue as the Deputy Principal of the Senior School while I am relieving as Principal.

Congratulations to the Astley Cup team members for their great win at the end of last term. The next newsletter will have an Astley Cup feature so keep your eyes out for some great news and photos celebrating the win. It seems that whenever I am on leave we can win the cup.

The students in Year 10 were given their curriculum booklets for Year 11 in 2016 today. Students have two weeks before these are due in and all parents and students are invited to the Future Directions evening at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre next Wednesday 22nd July at 6pm. The Future Directions Evening is an opportunity for students and their parents to explore options for 2016. Representatives from Denison College, the Board of Studies, Charles Sturt University, TAFE, VERTO, Skillset (formerly Central West Group Apprentices) will be present. Students should have an invitation for their parents but you may have to ask them for it.

Students should talk to their teachers to discuss appropriate courses. They can also talk to Alexa Barr (Rel DP Senior School), Sandra Chapman (College HT) and Des Crawford (Careers Adviser).

After the forms are submitted the curriculum will be established an interviews will then occur with students and parents to finalise subject selections.

I would also like to congratulate an ex student of Bathurst High. Cath Adams completed her HSC in 2001 and often performed with Swing Factor. She has made it through the blind auditions on “The Voice” and we hope she goes further in this competition.
The term may be drawing to a close but the activity level for students and staff at Bathurst High Campus is sky high. In week 8 we very successfully defended the Astley Cup in our first round against Orange High. The students are to be congratulated on not only their success, but on the way they played the games. Their sportsmanship was outstanding.

Unfortunately we lost the Mulvey Cup round by one point, and it was truly an outstanding debate. Again, as a demonstration of sportsmanship, our team of senior students were full of praise for their opponents. The staff that have trained and managed all the teams have done a great job in preparing the students for competition and are thanked for their efforts. The final round against Dubbo in Week 10 is eagerly awaited.

Our HT Senior Studies, Sandra Chapman together with her counterpart, Wendy Murphy, from Kelso High Campus planned a fantastic Study Day at CSU in Week 9. A total of 400 students from all over the Central West attended this very worthwhile event. Our Year 12 students felt that it gave them a great boost for their upcoming trial HSC Examinations in Week 5 of Term 3. I would advise these students to set aside a portion of their upcoming two week break to update their summaries of units of work and practise some HSC questions easily accessible on the BOS website.

Also in Week 9, forty Year 10 students attended a 2 hour Bell Shakespeare master class. Students worked with a highly experienced professional actor focusing on the famous play “Macbeth”. After some fun and invigorating warm up exercises, students worked in groups to create still images from the play and used their bodies to represent some of the play’s main themes. It was an excellent opportunity to develop understanding of the ways the script has been staged throughout the past four centuries and continues to be staged today. Enormous thanks to Cassie Burt for organizing the workshop and to the students from Kelso High Campus who joined us.

A group of students across all years have been involved in the Big Science Competition and the UNSW Science Competition over the past weeks. These activities allow students to compete against the best students in the state and get feedback on their areas of strength and weakness. The certificates the students receive are a great inclusion for their CV when applying for jobs, scholarships and entry into special programs.

The Aspire program has continued to provide a small group of mostly Year 10 students with work place skills. The last two days have seen the students participate in a Barista course, which they thoroughly enjoyed and found really valuable.

A suitable finale for the term is the Commendation Assemblies where students receive their reports for the Semester together with Commendation and Recognition Certificates acknowledging their effort and achievement of the year. It is fantastic to see so many students being recognized in this way. Congratulations!

Alexa Barr
Relieving Deputy Principal
Senior School
News from the Middle School

Commendation Assembly and Reports

Congratulations to the vast majority of students who received very positive reports. The Commendation Assembly is always a great way to end a semester and it was extremely encouraging seeing all of the awards received by students. I also encourage students to use their reports and the assembly as a reflection period where they can aim to improve or consolidate on their results. Parent Teacher night is on in week 3 next term (Year 9 and 10, 28th July and Year 7 and 8, 30th July) This is an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and any questions you have about the reports with teachers. Further information will be distributed closer to the date.

Creative and Performing Arts Night and Western Region Dance Festival

Congratulations to all those students involved in the above events. The Performing Arts Theatre was absolutely packed for the Creative and Performing Arts Night. Not only are students to be commended for their actual performances, but also the many hours that were put into preparing for both events. A huge thank you to Miss Reid, the Head Teacher of Creative and Performing Arts and the school’s dance teacher, as well as all the staff in the faculty who put in many, many hours helping students prepare for the performances.

Science Competition

Well done to Bradley Mounce Stephens in Year 8, Jacob Steele in Year 7 and Thomas Ellybank-Murray in Year 7 who entered the Australian Schools Science Competition. This is a great opportunity to test your skills against a very competitive field of students.

End of Term

Hard to believe we’re at the end of another term and halfway through the year! I’d like to wish all our students and their families a well-deserved holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone fresh and re-energised for Term 3.