The Year 7 Camp 2007

Time at school goes quickly and the child in Year 7 will soon be a young adult that must be ready for the world. School days and terms pass with routine and timetable and as young people move forward intent on outstanding achievement or merely survival, school life rushes past. There can be an overwhelming blur of feeling for students that work needs to be finished and always that something unexpected is coming that for which they are unprepared. So, a school camp is precious pause from the day to day. It provides the young student with time to take a breath, to be relaxed and pressure free. In this space, the young mind can look again around them at their friends, family, teachers and themselves and see what else is possible.

Year 7 students and teachers at Carlingford have had the recent very good fortune to leave their day to day classrooms far behind. On the 23rd of May at 8am, 136 fearless students and 10 brave teachers left Carlingford on 3 buses on a journey. There was a smile on every face because of the superb weather; fine and warm. Each person was keenly anticipating the night ahead which would be spent sleeping outside somewhere in the bush.

The buses headed to the small town of Brooklyn on the Hawkesbury River where all boarded a boat that cruised half an hour downstream. As the boat approached the wide mouth of the river, the small jetty of the Broken Bay Recreation Camp came into view on the northern bank. The camp was set behind a private beach in the foothills of a small range of hills. Apart from the facilities of the camp there was not a sign of a house, a road, a hotel or a supermarket in sight. In fact, for the first time in the brief lives of many of the Year 7 students they were genuinely out of a city and there was no mobile phone reception.

But the day’s journey was far from over. After lunch, students were divided into 5 groups and they began to pack their gear for their night in the wilderness. It took a while for students to understand that there would be no taps and that water was needed for cooking and that it would have to be carried. It took some explaining for students to realise that we would be outside and that shorts were not going to keep out the cold. It took some encouragement for students to gather the required mental toughness to walk up a steep hill with a bag on their back but eventually in 5 groups they headed out in different directions deep into the hinterland to survive by their own wits.
Congratulations:

Chloe Philip, Year 11 participating in a Sing NSW Tour of Vancouver Canada, June 27—July 7 2007.

Scott Laffer, Jason Laffer, Tim Hu, Kaveh Sajjadi, Balraj Ougra, Navdeep Ougra, James Bray, Taylor Spensieri competing in the 2007 Steve Birt memorial Knockout Volleyball Finals.

Olivia Chan, Yolanda Lu, Meera Meenashisundharam, Karen Lim, Gemma Collins, Tiffany Greenwood, Helena Hetherington, Ashlyn Collins also competing in the above competition.

Each group has their own story to tell about exactly what happened out there in the bush that night. Stories vary and it is hard to know what the truth really was. We do know that one student lost a piece of his finger apparently "bitten by a rock." We do know that Mr Erwin had one of the best nights sleep of his life and that Mr Mills did not. We can be sure that there were many students that wanted to go to bed early because there was no television to entertain them which was clearly inhumane. We do know that Mrs Leigh got a blister on her foot from the walk. We do know that not all students were asleep all night and that many sausages were burnt and bake beans fried in and not on the fire but that no child was left in hunger. We know that Queensland won the State of Origin that night and that many students held off toileting longer than they would have liked. Apart from these few details, what happened out there in the wilderness will remain a jigsaw of speculation except that we can proudly say that 136 students walked out of camp and 136 students came back alive. An extra special note of appreciation should be extended by the whole school community to those teachers who went above and beyond any call of duty to spend a cold night in a tent far away from their own families. The experience for so many students of living outdoors and cooking food for themselves on a fire was entirely new and wonderful and developed enormous self reliance.

Back at camp over the following days, students participated in a range of excellent activities such as abseiling, raft building, fishing and a high ropes course where Mr Cooper excelled himself completing a backwards rope balancing challenge 20 metres above the ground that only 6 individuals in the history of the camp have accomplished! Ms Reeves took one lucky student on a ice cream/chocolate/medical visit cruise and Ms Robinson and Ms Sluiter owned the volleyball court. The disco on Thursday night was a highlight where new limbo lows were recorded. A spirit within the Year 7’s palpably grew over this time and it is a spirit that will make an enormous difference for them through their high school years.

A thankyou again to all those teachers who participated in the camp and to Rob Waugh and Jenny Rankine who were so enthusiastic in their interactions and support to the students over the three days. I would also like to particularly thank the office staff at Carlingford for their assistance in the organizing of the camp. Their support was continuously tremendous. And finally, a special thank you to the parents of the Year 7 students who believed in the value of this experience and entrusted their sons and daughters to the adventure. Be sure to look at the Year 7 website for more photos and stories from the camp.

Matt Palmer
Year 7 Year Advisor.
ARTS NORTH AUDITION – by Emma Rowlinson.

On Monday May 28th, elective drama students from both years Nine and Eleven auditioned for a place in The Met North Drama Festival.

First to audition was Year 9 Drama 1 performing ‘WORD PLAY’. They performed this by acting out many small scenes without changing the dialogue, except for the addition of an opening line which helped set the scene. You could nearly feel the tension as they entered, but nerves didn’t seem to affect the class as they carried out the performance with little to no mistakes or setbacks.

Next to present their piece was Year 9 Drama 2 and they performed ‘FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER, LONGER’. This was a collection of acts that were both humorous and at times confronting. Costumes were used very effectively when male performers were transformed for female roles, this adding to the already comical script. Few mistakes were made with the occasional fumble of words.

Last to audition was the Year 11 Drama class who presented their own piece called ‘SCHOOL IS A JUNGLE’, unfortunately one of their actors was unavailable and so it was Pip from year nine drama 2 to the rescue, she put in 100% and did a great job, a big thanks goes out to her. This particular performance entertained all with its honesty. Congratulations to Yr 11 who created such an entertaining and eye opening performance.

A HUGE thanks goes out to Ms Mullen who gave up her free time to help us fine-tune our acts and organise costumes and other small details.

Good luck goes out to all who auditioned for the Met North Festival.

Yr 9 Drama 1 – Shani Burns, Emma Rowlinson, Adele Branford, Norel Shuck, Kayte McWhirter, Diana Yang, Amy Husan, Clara Lau, Elaine Luo, Steph Buckingham, Sarah McKie, John Goldie, Mark Shakour.


Yr 11 - Alexi Abel, Millie Brown, Eli Gledhill, Blake Paish, Francisco Prezoto, Latara Rust, Christina Thiers, Tom Tramonte.

Jane Mullen
Drama & Entertainment Teacher

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SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

The Siemens Science Experience, a three-day hands-on science, engineering and technology program, will be conducted in Australian universities in 2007/2008 for students who will be entering Year 10 in 2008. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, together with interesting presentations by leading scientists and engineers.

It is a Rotary Youth Services Project and fully supported by the Australian Science Teachers Association. The cost of the three-day program is $95 (includes GST). Local Rotary clubs are often willing to pay this fee.

Further information and application forms are available from the school’s Science Department, Rotary clubs and from www.scienceexperience.com.au. Early application is advised.

Any Year 9 student is welcome to attend.

Letter of Thanks

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, in my participation in the 2007 World Ice Hockey Championship, held in Romania.

During the tournament we won two games against Croatia and Serbia. Although we only won two games and finished fifth, we had the chance of winning a bronze medal. Unfortunately the point scoring system didn’t go our way. We beat the bronze medal team.

Our fifth placed finish ensured that we would not be relegated from division II and will remain in this division for next year’s championship. I personally, won the Most Valuable Player award for the Australian team.

Thank you.

Daniel Shaw”
HSC Dates
The 2007 Higher School Certificate timetable has been released and is available on the NSW Board of Studies website www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au. Industrial Technology is the first exam on October 18 and Business Services the last one on November 13. The Mandatory English exams are on October 19 and October 22.

Online support for senior students
NSW HSC Online provides web-based support for students studying for the Higher School Certificate. It includes study materials and interactive activities based on the syllabus for each HSC subject. HSC Online is at http://hsc.csu.edu.au/

Top 10 Studying Tips
Your child’s study techniques can be improved by encouraging them to:
1. Establish a routine
2. Create a study environment
3. Set a timetable
4. Drink plenty of water and eat healthy foods
5. Reward themselves for studying
6. Have variety in their study program
7. Avoid interruptions to concentration
8. Test themselves on what they have studied
9. Don’t panic at exam time
10. Ask their teachers for guidance.

Setting priorities and Time management
Setting priorities and time management are important for your child’s personal development. Encourage your child to:
1. Create a daily ‘to do’ list
2. List goals and set priorities
3. Do ‘A’s’ first (Most important things)
4. Do it now
5. Ask themselves “What is the best use of my time right now?”
6. Be realistic—new habits take time to develop. Reward themselves for small steps of progress towards their goals each week.

The Hills Family Centre: Ph: 9899 2944

What’s happening at Carlingford High School

July 16
School Development Day

July 17, 18, 19, 20
Rehearsals for HSC Dance and Drama

July 18
HSC Music Rehearsals

July 23, 24, 25
Creative Arts Exhibition

July 24
School visit from President, Korean Society of Sydney

July 25
Westpac Maths Competition

July 26
National Chemistry Quiz

July 27
Australian Maths Comp

July 30—August 3
Year 11 Construction Work Placement

August 1
Year 7 Vaccinations

August 1, 2
Sydney North Athletics Carnival

August 6—10
Trial HSC

August 8
School Council, P & C Meeting

August 27
Arts North Festival choir rehearsal & Performance

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