TERM 4 PBL AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to all students who received PBL awards for Macquarie, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.
This will be the final newsletter for 2015, and it has been a year of change and success for the entire school community. Congratulations to the many students recognized for their achievements at our recent PBL assembly. These awards recognize each students’ capacity to be a positive member of the school, both in class and in school representation. I look forward to celebrating with parents and the community, the achievements of more students at our annual Presentation Evening on the 15th of December in the School Hall.

I was fortunate in the last two weeks to attend several events that acknowledged the achievements of our students. Through the Links to Learning and Youth Frontiers programs we have had local volunteers and mentors work with the students on significant projects and workplace learning. Learning occurs both inside and outside of the classroom, as aspect that these critical programs allow students to experience and prepare them for traineeships and careers. Congratulations to Karen Spurr for her work in careers and School to Work that has provided many avenues for students to succeed.

Throughout this newsletter there are many great articles related to what your children are learning and experiencing at Lake Macquarie High School. I am impressed with the dedication of the staff to offer so many opportunities for your children to excel and I am confident that 2016 will bring bigger and better things to our school community. Thankyou to all of the staff at LMHS for your great work this year!

In preparation for 2016 we have been reviewing our School Plan. The School Plan is a document that outlines the Strategic Directions for the school and how we are always working towards improving what we offer your children. The updated directions for 2016-2017 are currently open for consultation and are outlines below.

**Strategic Direction 1 – Quality Learning for All**
- Personal Learning Plan for all students that require them
- Increased staff support to use the plans to offer individualized learning and differentiation
- Upgrade of classrooms under a Modern Learning Environment project

**Strategic Direction 2 – Increasing Teaching Capacity**
- Involvement in Quality Teaching Rounds with University of Newcastle
- Implementation of STEM curriculum
- Compliance for all teaching staff in line with Australian Standards for Teacher

**Strategic Direction 3 – Community Inclusion**
- School improvement through working with partner schools in the Lake Macquarie Area Collegiate
- Increasing recognition of student achievement to build positive school culture (PBL)
- ATSI Attendance and Engagement Project

As you can see, we have set ourselves immense goals for the next two years, and I am confident we will meet them. I look forward to seeing all parents and care givers being involved with the school as we move towards reforming Lake Macquarie High School.

Staff return in 2016 on the 27th of January, with Years 7, 11 and 12 returning on the 28th of January. Years 8 – 10 will return on the 29th of January.

I wish all families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Until next year

Brendan Maher
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL NEWS

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (WELFARE) JENNY MCEWAN

Tuesday 3rd December was a busy day of recognising student achievement and the wonderful support we receive from our volunteers including our students.

After the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) formal assembly and luncheon was held for a student volunteers, followed by a recognition BBQ lunch for our 178 students who had received bronze, silver or gold awards at the assembly. Our silver and gold awardees will be participating in a free excursion to the cinema next week.

Another luncheon was held for our canteen volunteers and mentors who tirelessly give up their time to support our students. The luncheon was prepared and served by our HSC hospitality class and everyone would agree that the baked dinner and dessert was scrumptious.

Every Friday morning at the PBL Gotcha assembly three students are drawn from the individual stage bins for a chance to win a $5 canteen voucher. The winner of the Semester II draw for this year is Angel Princina. Angel has won a $25 JB Hi-Fi gift Card. Congratulations to all of our recipients for this year.

Staff are busily organising the formal presentation for Tuesday 15th December, 2015 as well as fine tuning the reports which students will receive on the Tuesday morning.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year and that you all have a safe holiday and looking forward to seeing you all in 2016.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (REL) ANDREW HOCKING

Whilst we approaching the end of the year, the staff and students at Lake Macquarie High School are not winding down. Staff are working very hard to ensure that all of the necessary preparation for the start of the 2016 school year is done. Our last day of the school year is Wednesday, December 16 and lessons will continue until this date. The “Activities Week” that has run in past years will not operate this year. School reports will be issued to students during the day on Tuesday, December 15, culminating in our School Presentation Assembly held that evening, in the school hall from 6pm for a 6:30pm start, to celebrate first in each course. Parents and carers of these students will receive a letter of invitation.

As staff are preparing for 2016, so too can students. Over the Christmas break, students should ensure that they are ready to start the new year in a positive fashion. This means that equipment such as pens, books, calculators, dairies, etc are assembled and ready to be used. Good preparation in the holidays is part of the foundation for success in the new year. Students should also be on time for school and each lesson, as punctuality and reliability are viewed as positive traits by prospective employers.
For our HSC students, there will only be three terms of school left until their courses are complete. A regular revision and study program should be in place for the new school year so that these students can maximise their HSC results.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all a happy and safe holiday.

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**ENGLISH**

Well, we’ve almost made it to the end of a busy year. Right now Year 9 are in the midst of their annual study of Shakespeare. This year classes are focusing on the tragic love of Romeo and Juliet. Mrs Cooper’s class is planning a presentation of a scene from the play using puppets, stop animation and digital Lego while Mr Montgomery’s class has been exploring the choreography of Elizabethan dance and sword fighting, using the infamous Montgomery sword collection, and reading about the love struck teens in class.

Year 11 (almost Year 12) have all completed their first HSC assessment tasks and are well on the way to finishing their first examinable topic and stating their second. Advanced and Standard classes will have texts to read over the Christmas holidays. All four classes are learning the value of using the whole two weeks (or more), drafting and planning tasks and seeking advice from their teachers BEFORE tasks are due to increase the likelihood of achieving their goals. This is a good lesson to learn early, the earlier the better.

Year 10 are focused on developing their skills for Stage 6 in analysing texts through ongoing film studies, including Hitchcock’s The Birds and Vertigo and Peter Weir’s The Truman Show.
Year 8 are finishing their studies of poetry and beginning their introductory work on William Shakespeare and Year 7 has almost finished their work on Egypt.

It’s been wonderful to see the improvements students have made in their critical thinking and communication skills in particular this year and we look forward next year to working with students to improve more of their employment related skills such as teamwork and time management.

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

As part of the School’s Duke of Edinburgh’s Award program, a group of 14 students led by Mr Johnston and Mrs Svhila recently completed a 3-day self-sufficient hike from Congewai in the Hunter Valley back across the Watagan Mountains and finishing back on the shores of Lake Macquarie at Speer’s Point park.

The participating students complete the hike as a requirement for their Bronze Duke of Ed award and are required to carry all their own food, water and camping/cooking equipment which amounts to some very heavy packs, adding up to 1/3 of a persons body weight!

Day 1: Our day began with an early bus ride out to Congewai. Exiting the bus, we stopped for a quick group photo and began walking from the valley to the top of the first ridge line of the mountains. This amounted to 8km steep and steady climbing and was a tough introduction to how much all that extra weight adds to your overall effort! Reaching the ridge-line, we stopped for a food break, mingled with the wildlife and continued on our way to our first campsite. Reaching the campsite, we were greeted with panoramic views over the Quorrobolong valley and we pitched our tents, gathered round a campfire and settled in for the night.

Day 2: Our second day promised to be our shortest day by distance, however the terrain was by far the most difficult encountered on the journey. Hiking almost continually through steep, densely overgrown rain forest gullies, encountering what seemed like every leech in Australia and being reduced to scrambling up rock faces on hands and knees at time we eventually made it in one piece to our second campsite, this time overlooking the entire Lake Macquarie region. We settled in for an early night and prepared for an early start in an attempt to beat the worst of the predicted heat the next day.
Day 3: We began the day with a very steep decent down Heaton’s Gap to Freeman’s Waterhole and then climbed back up to the ridge line of the Sugarloaf range. Following this, we then descended and crossed under the freeway where we emerged into Wakefield with our final trek being along sealed roads. Although the terrain was easier, the 37 degree heat was certainly beginning to hurt! Crossing our last climb back to Teralba we stumbled across 5 Islands bridge and made it to Speer’s Point park where parents were waiting to pick up their weary hikers.

Throughout the hike we traveled a total of 52km with fully loaded packs through some incredibly difficult and challenging terrain. Overall it was fantastic effort by the students and it was a pleasure to witness the perseverance that was shown in the face of both mental and physical challenges. I look forward to our next adventure in 2016, Well done!

Mr Johnston

MATHEMATICS

This year the Maths department has withdrawn students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to be involved in a Gifted and Talented Students (GATS) program. The specially chosen students have engaged in extra Maths lessons to improve and extend the skills they already have. The program has been extremely successful. All students were highly motivated and are commended for their diligence and appreciation of the importance of Mathematics in their education. Some of the feedback received from the students included:

“The GATS class expanded my knowledge making me feel more confident….and my results improved because of the class.”

“…more challenging work…”

“…strengthens my knowledge…”

“..enjoyed the extended learning in areas of Maths…”

“The bad thing about the GATS class is that it ended.”

A reminder to parents and caregivers that a scientific calculator is a necessary part of the required equipment for all Maths lessons. The CASIO fx82-AU PLUS is available for purchase at the school for $25. Students need to pay the money to the front office and bring the receipt to the Maths staffroom to receive a calculator.

Maths Competition Awards
SPECIAL EDUCATION

This semester Special Ed have gone on some exciting adventures and explored new ways of learning. There have been many notable moments during our community access excursions such as Mr Walsh smoking all the students in a go-kart race, Mr Spowart and his QLD driving, and Ms Glynn getting lost on her way to bowling. During lunchtimes and recesses there has been an epic handball tournament with Mr Shevels still reigning as ‘King Shevs’. King Shevs has had fair competition with James, Ben and Jack often waiting to take his place and contend for ace position. Most importantly, Mrs Mostyn gave birth to a handsome baby boy called Beau Kobe.

In each of our classes we have been working on some exciting projects. Mr Shevel’s class has been busy running a bike shop where they repair and rebuild pre-loved bicycles. Mr Spowart’s class have focused on academic pursuits and are delving in to the old world of the Vikings and learning about the pecking order through habitats and food chains. Finally, Ms Glynn’s class has been as studious as ever, exploring the universe in Science, enjoying bizarre practical lessons with Ms LD, and learning through gaming on a program called ‘Into Science.’ You may have noticed the MC class busily digging in the garden and carting dirt. We have managed to sprout some coriander, parsley, beans, and basil. Hopefully these will continue to grow and you may be able to purchase some quality, just about, organic herbs towards the end of term.

Shoreline is the new Lake Macquarie High School fortnightly newsletter that will highlight the many great programs and student achievements across our school. If you would like to receive Shoreline as an email please contact the Front Office on 49581544 or by email lakemacqua-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Don't forget our school’s Facebook page at “Lake Macquarie High School – Official”
Schools website http://www.lakemacqua-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/home

TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCE

As the year draws close to the Xmas break, TAS staff and students are busy with finalisation of projects, student awards and the many changes before the start of 2016.

Three TAS staff are year advisors (Carol Lewis, Michael Beecham and Andrew Guy); therefore, they currently are busy organising awards and certificates for presentation days.

Trade Training Centre update. The past 2 weeks has seen major construction work and visual changes to C Block.

External covered work area has made progress, internal lowered ceilings have been installed and the frame of the Technology classroom as been installed.
School Power Upgrade.
Cement block work has been carried out at the main entrance to the school in preparation of the power upgrade to cover the power increase into the school for the Trade Training Centre.

Year 12 VET classes: Students in both VET Construction and the Metals & Engineering classes are spending the last weeks of school to improve areas around the school. Removal of the installed fence along the Quad area will allow the opening up of the shaded tree area. The school Gym is being internally modified to allow better utilisation of the gym resources.

Students from the Textiles and Cooking classes - project samples. From Carol Lewis’s classes.
Mr Beecham’s: Engineering and Jewellery making classes.

The TAS faculty would like to wish all students a Merry Xmas and safe endeavours over the holiday break.
Wayne Cook (Head Teacher).

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

VISUAL ARTS MURAL

Thanks to the generosity of our P&C work has begun on a large mural which will brighten up the wall outside of the basement area. The work will be a collaboration between local artist and art teacher, John O'Reilly, and some of our talented Visual Arts students. Students will work with Mr O'Reilly in their usual art periods, learning about contemporary art techniques. The subject matter of the mural is “people who have made the world a better place” and will feature historical figures such as Ghandi, John Lennon, Frida Kahlo, and Stephen Hawking. The mural will be completed early next year.

Right: The very early stages of our mural.

DRAMA FILMMAKING

Year 9 and 10 Drama students are currently collaborating in small groups to create entertaining short films. They participate in all facets of the filmmaking process, including scripting, storyboarding, shooting on location and editing.

MUSIC STUDENTS TO SHINE FOR CHRISTMAS

On December 4 some of our most committed Music students will be supporting Speers Point Public School by performing and engineering sound at their Family Fun Fest. Kristina Poles, Abbey Acland, Millie Sarginson, Beccie Williams, Angel Princena, Charlotte Partridge, Cassie Monckton, and Brooklyn Lukas will be performing a range of songs from 5pm until 6pm. Jack Davidson and ex-student Connah Fraser will be engineering sound.

2015 School Spectacular Success!! Congratulations to Jamie Razon and Keely Tanner on their inspirational performances at this year’s School Spectacular.

You can view their performances on Youtube – “2015 School Spectacular “
SCIENCE

It has been another exciting fortnight in the Science faculty.

**ZooSnooz**

On the 19th November HSC Biology students were treated to the ZooSnooz at Taronga Zoo.

Here is what the Biology students wrote about the experience:

Zoo Snooze trip was very interesting. Staff members from the zoo were very informative throughout the whole excursion. We were introduced to some reptiles and their adaptations were explained. That night, we went on a walk, where we were shown some of the African and Asian animals. We learned that zebras are in fact black with white stripes. The night walk was very interesting, we were shown what the animals do after dark in their ‘down time’ as well as getting beautiful views of the harbour as the sun was setting. The next morning we were shown and could pat Australian animals like the Quokka (only found on Rottnest Island). Before the zoo opened we did a ‘behind the scenes’ tour, which lead us to the bird show, where we were shown a black cockatoo and an owl. We learned how the feathers around an owls face direct sound to their ears. All in all, the Zoo Snooze was a very interesting, exciting and informative excursion. Written by Jessica Rea.

Overall I think it was a brilliant excursion and would like to thank Ms Newton and Mr Hocking for the organisation. *Written by Karlie Vlaich.*

I recommend students bring their own red light for the night walk. *Written by Paige Bowes.*

We got to see nocturnal animals up and about on the night walk. *Written by Dana Minto*

Each member of staff was more than happy to take us to the animals we wanted to see and were very informative. It was nice to see people interested and invested in the well-being of animals. I do recommend the excursion to any future biology students. *Written by Elizabeth Hill.*

![Image of students at Taronga Zoo](image1.png)

![Image of students at Taronga Zoo](image2.png)
Models in Science

Science seeks to create simple descriptions of and explanations for our complex world. A scientific model is a very powerful and common way to represent these simplifications (http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

Year nine are working on a topic called Body Snatchers which involves looking at diseases. As this unit wraps up, students are designing and building models of specific pathogens. One student has designed and is making a model of the influenza virus and is planning to cut it in half and fix pipe cleaners to the inside to represent RNA, another student is using paper mache on a long balloon to model staphylococcus bacteria and another long balloon is a tape worm. Some designs include using ping pong balls and pom poms for surface proteins on viruses. Good scientists need to be creative. They need to invent new models and year nine are on their way to being very good scientists.

Scales in Science – A protozoa is 50 000 nanometre, bacteria 200 nanometres, Virus 50 nanometres and Prions are 4 nanometres. Students standing in front of diagrams of diseases draw to scale.

CAREERS

The Canteen program enhances student’s employability skills and provides supervision and training for students in the area of food handling and service. It is also a valuable service to the students and staff as it assists in the efficiency of our school canteen. Julie Berends and Kim Turner are the student’s supervisors.

Our Ground Team has worked all year improving our school grounds and developing skills which are transferrable to the workplace. Thanks for your hard work Liam Cowen, Peter Becvarovska, Brodie Sharp and Owen Walters. Mr Testa has provided the boys with valuable life skills instruction. We have a new Green Team commencing with Year 7 students.
Links to Learning - Maria Fernance, Belle Neill, Bryce Beeston, Wayne Gorman and Daniel Lebrocq have gained a Certificate I in Access to Work and Training as well as their First Aide Certificate, White card and completed work experience. All will graduate Tuesday 24th of November at Club Macquarie.

Certificate II in Business - 20 students this year have gained a statement of attainment towards a Certificate II in Business. This course highlights workplace communication and safety as well as career planning and interview presentation. Graduation of our Term 4 cohort will take place Wednesday 25th November at our school. Invitations have been given to participating students and parents are most welcome.

Interviews will take place on the 11th Dec and 14th Dec in the school library for all Year 10 students. Students have been given lessons and booklets in preparation for this compulsory activity. Students will present at an interview panel with a job advertisement, cover letter and resume in a portfolio. They are to wear an outfit suitable for a job interview and only required at school at the time of their interview. Please contact the school if your child is unable to attend.

This year has been another year where we salute our wonderful volunteers who have come to our school every Monday afternoon to provide support and encouragement to our students who have been working on a community project. The mentors focus on leadership skills and civic engagement. After six months and 30 hours of mentoring our students will have designed and implemented their own community project. On the 24th November from 5.30pm -8pm at Central Charlestown Leagues Club a celebration and presentation of projects will take place. Participating students are Jack Adnum, Tahnee Griffen, Alice Hunt, Keirra Petersen, Dominic Rayfield, Jade Simpson, Liam Thomas, Monique Walsh and Tyeisha Whitten.

Lake Macquarie High School has its own Careers Website. Our aim is to provide students and parents with all the latest information that will help them make decisions about your future career and your life beyond school.

You can use this site www.lakemacquariehighcareers.com.au to locate University, TAFE and other courses across Australia, get regular newsletters, a Career Calendar of important events, search job vacancies and create a cover letter and resume. You can also find out what is happening at school and view photos on Facebook.

If you have any questions or require assistance in using this site contact Mrs Karen Spurr Careers Adviser (LMHS)
Indigenous Networking BBQ

Lake Macquarie High School extends an invitation to the local Aboriginal community to attend a networking BBQ.

When: 10th December 2015
Time: 10:30am—12:30pm
Where: Lake Macquarie High School
Who: Friends and family

For inquiries, contact the school’s AEO,

RSVP ESSENTIAL

Please return this invitation with the written name/s of parents and friends who are attending as we need to confirm numbers for catering. This RSVP slip can be returned to the office.
Have a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year!!

From the Staff and Students of Lake Macquarie High School