Welcome back to 2016. The school year started back last Wednesday for staff, last Thursday for Years 7, 11 and 12, and Friday for Years 8, 9 and 10.

On Wednesday, at the Staff Development Day, a significant level of professional learning occurred. I am sure parents and caregivers would be interested in the topics presented. I delivered a whole school analysis of HSC results for 2015 and then a presentation on best practice to improve HSC results. Our Deputy principal, Mr Shannon Mudiman co-ordinated an update of the School’s Plan, with all teachers having input, to ensure we have clear direction as to focus points and strategies for achievement in 2016. The Numeracy team, led by our Head Teacher of Assessment and Curriculum, Ms Merrilyn Court, guided staff through current syllabus support documentation to ensure literacy is addressed across all key learning areas. Ms Candice Keir, in her role as Chairperson of Windsor High School’s Literacy team, presented with Ms Trish Walker, the Literacy Action Plan for 2016, with an emphasis on addressing improving skills in extended responses for students, in all year groups, in all faculties. Our final session was on faculty planning for Week 2 Term 1 2016.
the term ahead. A busy, but fruitful day indeed.

Year 7 started their first day at high school participating in ‘An Amazing Race’ program, where students have fun whilst becoming orientated with the schools set out and acquainted with other students in their year group. After recess, they attended their first classes, where all reports from staff indicated they have settling in well. Thank you to the Year Advisor- Mr Dugald Sydney- Jones and Ms Candice Keir- Head Teacher Welfare for ensuring the Year 7’s have a smooth start to high school.

Year 11’s arrived looking very professional in their new senior uniform, ready for the challenges ahead. They spent the day settling into their new classes, studying many subjects in detail for the first time. This Thursday 4th February, they will attend an ‘Introduction to Senior School’, to prepare them for the Preliminary Courses, co-ordinated by Ms Yolanta Calvert, our careers advisor.

Year 12, having already completed one term of their HSC courses, returned knowing the expectations and challenges that lie ahead. Year 12’s will be encouraged to spend study periods in the library, optimising learning opportunities for students completing both ATAR and non-ATAR courses.

Gday USA

We welcome back the ten students and Ms Bronwyn Kedicioglu from their trip to America, a school excursion that occurred during January. A special mention is warranted to acknowledge Ms Kedicioglu who gave up three weeks of her holidays, away from family, to give the ten girls the opportunity to travel overseas; an excursion they will remember for the rest of their lives. There is a report later in this newsletter.

Thursday Interest Groups

The amazing staff of Windsor High has agreed to provide the students with the opportunity to participate in interest groups that will run on a Thursday lunchtimes. Lunch time has been extended by ten minutes to allow enough time for these special groups to run. At this stage 29 different groups will run, with a focus that is wide and varied. The list of the groups on offer includes choir, dance- hip hop/jazz, dance- lyrical/Jazz, technology, chess, soccer, netball, art/colouring club, cards, weights,
knitting/crocheting, teacher-student band, guitar, photography, Agriculture, Mind, body & soul (beauty), touch football, cricket/league, Silver Duke of Ed, cooking basics, sewing, boxing, printmaking, aboriginal art & storytelling, violin lessons, big history, running and soul purpose (Christian group). Attending a group is not compulsory but is highly encouraged. These interest groups will run at no expense to the students, will provide leadership opportunities and will be acknowledged on the front of their school reports. The program will start this week, 4th February, and should be another great opportunity for WHS students.

The first weekly newsletter for the year
As you were made aware in term 4 last year, we plan on producing an electronic newsletter this year on a weekly basis. We will always, however, produce a small number of paper versions for those without access to the electronic version. It is therefore crucial in terms of communication between home and school that we are provided with up to date email addresses of parents. It is planned that the newsletter will arrive in your inbox no later than Tuesday mornings in school terms.

If you are reading this on a paper version, but have access to receiving emails; please inform the school immediately of the address so it may be added to our mailing list. Email addresses are kept confidential and are not sent with the email. (Please see the form further in this newsletter). There will be an option for individuals and businesses from our school community to place paid advertisements in the later part of the newsletter. Please contact our school administration manager, Mrs Christine Murphy, if you are interested in pursuing this.

New Students
I am pleased to share that the school has received more than 17 enquiries for new students who would like to enrol at Windsor High in the first week of this term. Applications have been received from students who have been locally attending private schools, as well as some from students who have moved into the area. This shows that word is spreading about the great opportunities that the school provides students, on an academic, vocational, social and welfare basis. I am excited about leading Windsor High in 2016

Regards
Mrs Jennifer Hawken
Principal

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<th>CALENDAR</th>
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<td>4/2   Year 11—Study Day</td>
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<td>5/2   Field of Dreams Excursion</td>
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<td>15/2 - 19/2 Year 12 Work Placement</td>
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<td>17/2   Windsor Open Night</td>
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<td>From 5.30pm</td>
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<td>22/2 - 26/2 Year 12 Academic Reviews</td>
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<td>23/2   P &amp; C Meeting  7pm</td>
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<td>25/2   Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>26/2   Macquarie Cup</td>
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<td>1/3    Year 7 &amp; Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening  (4.00-6.00pm)</td>
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<td>3/3    School Photographs</td>
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<td>3/3    Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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G’DAY USA 2016

Over the Xmas holidays I accompanied 10 students to the United States as part of the Windsor High School G’day USA program, which sees high school students travel to the US for twenty (20) days to experience American culture.

Meeting at the airport in the early hours we farewelled our family and friends (with less tears than I anticipated; the girls were clearly keen to get the trip underway) and began our journey. For many of the girls, and myself, this was our first trip overseas and as such we departed with a mix of nervous anticipation, pure excitement and utter fear (maybe that was just me).

Arriving in LA in the early hours of the morning, we were driven to Huntington Beach to stretch our legs and shake off the 13 hour flight. We quickly located a Starbucks, an establishment that was to feature heavily in our trip overall, and the girls fell into a deep silence as they attached to the free Wi-Fi, reconnecting to the world again.

Despite the time, many people were on the beach and the girls and I enjoyed wandering under the pier and watching the surfers and volleyballers as the realisation of where we were dawned on us. After a year of planning and saving, we had finally arrived! A few hours later we were driven to Walmart, an iconic American store, before disembarking at Knott’s Berry Farm Resort, the home of Snoopy and our accommodation for the next week. It was now that the girls had the opportunity to meet the other travellers in our group, including students from Armidale, Wagga Wagga and Lisarow, and it didn’t take long for the giggling, texting, room switching and selfies to begin.

Our second day in the States saw us travel to Disneyland in a torrent of rain; unseasonal weather for LA. Despite being drenched within moments, some quickly purchased ponchos which saw us back on track and we were able to enjoy all of the rides including Hyperspace Mountain, the Indiana Jones ride and the Matterhorn. Highlights from the day included a personal photo shoot with Mickey Mouse, exploring Sleeping Beauty’s castle, being escorted out of Toad’s Wild Ride when it broke down (oops!) and laughing when the blood drained from Paris’s terrified face on every fast ride. The girls came back together at the end of the night to watch the spectacular parade celebrating 60 years of Disney, followed by a fireworks display to rival Sydney New Year’s Eve. Even as an adult I was awed by the spectacle (they made Mickey Mouse from fireworks!).

While we were able to navigate Disneyland in the rain our trip to Knott’s Berry Farm Roller Coaster theme park was cancelled due to the weather and instead we were taken to the California Science
Centre for a day of exploration. The best part of the day was standing beneath the Endeavour Space Shuttle, which has been into space 25 times and has the scorch marks to prove it. We also experienced a slight earthquake, 5.5 on the Richter scale, although many of us didn't feel it (thankfully).

The Hollywood Walk of Fame was our next day's destination and we were treated to a guided audio tour down the famous boulevard to see the Avenue of Stars, Grumman's Chinese Theatre and the famous Hollywood sign before gaining entry to Madame Tussaude's Wax Museum. The girls and I ran around getting photos with the 'stars' which were so lifelike I thought Betty White was going to suddenly come to life. We greased lightning with John Travolta, did some dirty dancing with Patrick Swayze, phoned home with E.T., went psycho with Alfred Hitchcock and made the Godfather an offer he couldn't refuse. The end of the day saw us at Santa Monica Pier and we were able to watch the sunset over the ocean from the ferris wheel.

For our last day in LA we travelled to Universal Studios and saw Mario Lopez filming Extra, exploring all the park had to offer. The backlot tour was incredibly interactive and we became part of a number of sets, including being caught in a fight between King Kong and a T-Rex, attacked by Jaws, chased by Norman Bates, and caught in the middle of a fast and furious gun fight with Dominic Toretto. Following the tour we also danced with Bumblebee, ate at Moe's Tavern and the Kwik-E Mart, and were turned into Minions, before departing the park to meet our host families in San Diego.

The girls and I were hosted by teachers and families at Del Norte High School (Go Nighthawks!), who greeted us with banners, signs and cheers to welcome us to the school. All of the families were very keen to get to know about us and as such many of the girls attended the pasta night that had been arranged as a meet and greet. During the night a speed-dating style activity was organised whereby the travellers and hosts rotated around the room asking questions of each other. Given that we were from Australia and the purpose of the activity was building friendships, the activity was quickly rebranded speed-'mate'ing and all involved had a great time. We spent the next 10 days with our families, meeting each morning at Del Norte High and touring during the day while our hosts were at school. We visited San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park and Sea-world, boarded the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier, and shopped at the Las Americas Outlet Mall which, literally, backs onto the border of Mexico and from which you can see Tijuana and the border patrol.

We also attended the high school and classes for a day to see what American school is like. The American students were curious about our culture and keen to ask us questions. Many of us were asked about our animals as they wondered how we can live in a country with such dangerous wildlife. We were quick to point out that while we may have snakes and spiders, we did not have mountain...
lions, skunks, bears or coyotes which were often seen around the San Diego area where we were being hosted. We were also asked if we owned koalas, wrestled crocodiles or had ever been punched by a kangaroo. Overall our time in hosting was great and we all had different experiences with our families which included skiing, visiting California Adventure Park and Legoland, and shopping and eating out (naturally). There were lots of tears when we left to fly to San Francisco, with a number of the girls sad about leaving their host sisters and families. I even had a request from one of the girls to ‘accidentally leave her behind’ when the bus pulled out.

Upon our arrival in San Francisco we were driven to the Hotel Zephyr which was gorgeous. We ate dinner and shopped at Fisherman’s Wharf before heading back to the hotel to play pool and sit around the outdoor fire pits, relaxing after an exhausting 18 days. The next day we made our way to Pier 33 to catch a ferry to Alcatraz, the most famous prison in the world. Here we went on an audio tour, listening to stories of routines, escape attempts and sieges told by ex-guards and inmates, as we wandered into cells and solitary confinement. An amazing place, we also met an ex-inmate who had been incarcerated on ‘The Rock’ from 1957-1960 for counterfeiting and forgery.

Later that night the girls and I got dressed up for our last night in San Fran, and following dinner the students were surprised with a night tour of the city in a stretch hummer. For an hour and a half we cruised around the town with lights and music pumping in the car. We also had the opportunity to get out and take photos, continuing the dancing and singing wherever we pulled up. Our walk back to the hotel was less than subtle, with 20 students from Windsor and Armidale singing Party in the USA, Advance Australia Fair and Waltzing Matilda through the streets of San Francisco.

Our last day was a guided bus tour around the city followed by a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge before heading to the airport to fly home. While the trip was amazing we were all very keen to get back. After a 15 hour (and might I say very turbulent flight) we flew into Sydney and the tears flowed as our families were there to greet us with cuddles and kisses.

Over the course of the trip the girls were incredible, demonstrating how mature, resourceful, organised and resilient they all are. Each of them made friendships and had experiences that will last a lifetime and I was, and am, proud to be able to say that they were Windsor High School students. I would also thoroughly recommend this trip to any student (or teacher—my kids have told me I’m not allowed to go again) who wants to travel.
DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS????

In 2016 we are electronically communicating between parents, the community and the school. In order for us to do this we need to have all your contact details up-to-date, this includes your email address.

With the cost of postage increasing to 95c per standard letter we feel that our funds could be better placed with student’s resources and we will be emailing important information to parents. This will include the weekly newsletter. The newsletter is an important source of information to keep you up-to-date with what is happening at Windsor High School.

If you have not already updated your information this year please complete the form below and have your son/daughter return it to the front office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to working with you and your son/daughter in 2016.

______________________________________________________

Student’s Personal Details

Not Including change of guardianship

Are you: Legal Guardian  Are you: Parent Not Residing with student  Are you: Emergency Contact

STUDENT’S NAME: ________________________ YEAR ____________ DATE ______________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL: ___________________________________________________________________________

FATHER’S NAME: _________________________ MOTHER’S NAME: _________________________

ADDRESS: (IF DIFFERENT TO ABOVE) ADDRESS: (IF DIFFERENT TO ABOVE)

_________________________________________________________________________________

HOME PHONE: __________________________ WORK PHONE: __________________________

WORK PHONE: __________________________ WORK PHONE: __________________________

MOBILE: _______________________________ WORK PHONE: __________________________

EMERGENCY CONTACT: __________________PHONE NO.: ________________________

If your child is changing living arrangements or you and your child’s other parent now have joint custody arrangements, you will be required to complete a new enrolment form and provide a covering letter from the current guardian authorising us to change the details.
Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by Advancedlife Photography. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school’s unique 9 digit Online Order Code. DH4 RP3 BLD

Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

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WWW.ADVANCEDLIFE.COM.AU
Bligh Park Physical Culture Club

Physical Culture is a modern low impact exercise
• Promotes good posture and presentation
• Open to all ages beginning from 3 years
• Exercises are structured according to the ability of the age group.
  Modern popular music is used
• develops co-ordination, increases flexibility and improves self-confidence

Classes are held at Tiningi Hall, Colonial Drive,
  Bligh Park

WHEN: Mondays from 4.00 pm.
WHO: 3 years to ladies
For more information please call Lynette on 0408029398,
Email: wzblighpark@iprimus.com.au
or visit our website: www.wzpcd.com.au