

# Kurri Kurri High School Newsletter

*Making the Best of Ourselves*

Deakin and Stanford Streets

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Number 6



September 23 2016

## The Principal - Mrs Breese

*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.*

*Today you are you! That is truer than true!  
There is no one alive who is you-er than you!  
The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*

This was my final message to Year 12 this morning at their final Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many carers and extended families in attendance to congratulate our Year 12 students on their end of year celebrations. To our wonderful parents, it was so lovely to see you there and proudly supporting your wonderful children. For some of you it is the first child through to the end of the HSC and for others the last. This time of year always reminds of how fast the time flies and how quickly they leave the next of comfort and support provided by school. I very much look forward to the Formal celebrations tonight with families, teachers and students celebrating our community of work that we have achieved together.

This then brings me to point two. We are a community of learners. Our staff and students work in unison to produce work and skills for the future. Teachers, to continue their own personal learning to be the best professional teacher they can be, and our students, to be the best citizens they can be. This was clearly demonstrated in the Fun Run. A community event that saw students, teachers and other staff dress up and come together to raise funds for a worthy cause- Youth off the Streets. It was a wonderful expression of our community pride and the giving back to others. My thanks to all staff, but particularly Mrs Edwards and the SRC for their tireless work to create these amazing events.

As term 3 draws to a close, say thanks to a teacher who has worked so hard to drive your learning this term, to write reports, mark assessments, prepare HSC students and then spend the holidays preparing for another term of work. It is a ceaseless but satisfying job.

Finally, congratulations to Mr Hope who secured his position as a permanent Deputy Principal. His work ethic, care for students and professionalism make him a worthy recipient of this position. I know from our community surveys that students and parents alike have much respect for his work and compassion.

Have a wonderful holiday break.

## Students Making a Difference - Mrs King



At the beginning of this term we were approached by Rotary to start an Interact group here at Kurri Kurri High School. Interact is a Rotary group for High School students to join together to tackle the issues in their community that they care most about. Through Interact students will carry out service projects, develop leadership skills and enjoy teambuilding events.

**The club plan to run projects to beautify the school and community and help those in need.**

Our first Interact meeting saw 100 students interested in being involved in an Interact Club at Kurri Kurri High School. At this meeting the board members were elected and from here the charter was formed. The board members have also selected some assistants to help them manage such a large club.

Story Cont'd on page 2

## Important Dates

10 October 2016	Term 4 Begins. Students & staff return to school
13 October 2016	HSC Written Exams Commence
14 October 2016	Year 11 reports issued to students
14 October 2016	2017 Prefect Induction Ceremony
18 October 2016	Year 7 Immunisations
18 October 2016	Sydney Theatre Co. Excursion
25 October 2016	P&C Association Meeting 6.30pm
3 November 2016	Vulnerable Students Transition

### Students Making a Difference cont'd...

Board Members and assistants are;

President:	Brayden Bean	Assistant:	Nicola Willets
Vice Pres:	Nathan Goodwin	Assistant:	Chloe Geering
Secretary:	Rosie Sutton	Assistant:	Ebony Holmes
Treasurer:	Brandon Gear	Assistant:	Dylan Andrews
Board 1:	Amber Allan	Assistant:	Olivia Page
Board 2:	Jaymie Hawkins	Assistant:	Kevin Donnelly-Dennis

The club plan to run projects to beautify the school and community and help those in need. They plan to run fundraising events both at school and in the community that will be fun and help to raise the fund required for the projects they take on.

Interact students will also work closely with Kurri Rotary Club on joint ventures. The first was on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September where Kurri Interact students assisted at the "Build for Hope" Open Day. "Build for Hope" is a house that has been built and donated to be auctioned with proceeds going to Children's Cancer Research. The team had a great day, meeting and working with The Block stars Scott Cam, Brad and Lara. They were thrilled to be working on such an important project and the feedback from Rotary was that they were exemplary, with nothing being asked of them being a problem at all.

If you would like to know more, Brayden has started a Kurri Kurri High Interact Team group on Facebook where people can keep up to date with all things Interact! Click on the logo to head to their page:



### Deputy Principal Stage 4 - Mr Hope

As term 3 comes to a close we are now well into our planning for 2017!

Year 7 students have all made selections for their Year 8 electives and we certainly have some exciting choices. Students are required to choose a X and a Y elective for semester 1 and another 2 for semester 2. Choices include 'Rings and Bling', French, and Visual Design to name just 3. All the information regarding these courses have been placed on a Google Classroom so that students can gain more information in their selections.

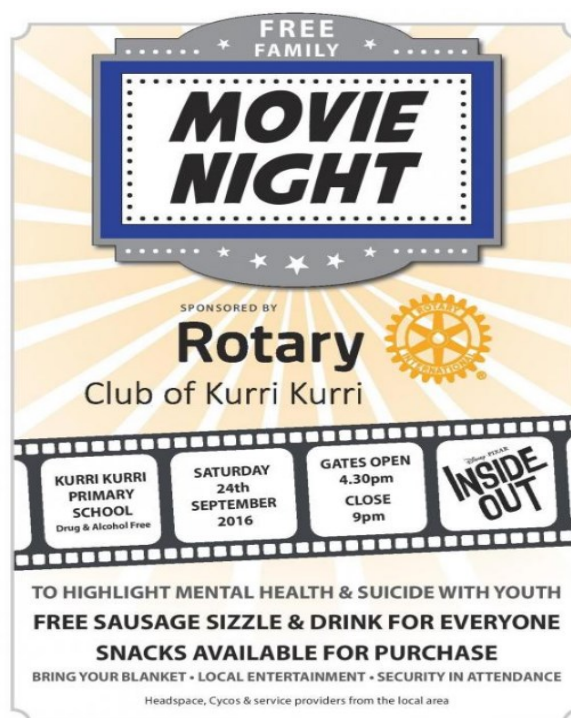
Year 8 have also been making some important choices for their curriculum in 2017. These students are required to pick 2 electives to run in year 9&10 and 1 elective for year 9. Again, this information is on a Google Classroom.

**All the information regarding these courses have been placed on a Google Classroom...**

It is important to note for parents and carers that some of these courses have costs involved for the materials and project completions. There are some really exciting projects planned and I am looking forward to seeing the positive results for our students.

Similarly, applications have now closed for our Blue Hub (enrichment) for Year 7, 2017 and teachers are busy planning and preparing for the new project based learning that is planned for next year. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and QUEST (HSIE, English and Visual Arts), along with Lifestyle and LOTE will offer students a new and exciting curriculum through integrated and inquiry based learning.

With all of these exciting things happening, we must not forget that our Year 12 students have recently left school and are busy studying for their HSC. I wish all of these students good luck for their upcoming exams and all their future endeavours.



### Deputy Principal Stage 5 & Aboriginal Education Report - Mrs James-Cliff (Relieving)

Well, we are rapidly nearing the end of another busy term. Recent weeks have seen students involved in a range of activities.

Our new Junior Aboriginal Education Group Executive Committee was voted in towards the end of August and comprises of Steven Ahoy as President, Emily Lloyd as Vice President, Darcie Cliff as Secretary and Chloe Lambert as Assistant Secretary. Congratulations to these students.



The Kullaburra Awards were held in August to recognise the achievements of Aboriginal students for attendance, leadership, sportsmanship, all round achievement and HSC completion. While many of our students are to be congratulated as recipients of these awards, special mention must go to Emily Lloyd who was honoured to accept the Uncle Les Elvin Memorial Award for her contribution to Aboriginal education.

As in an earlier story, Kurri Kurri High School has established an Interact Club within the school. I would like to thank Mrs King for being the driving force to get this off the ground. This is a fabulous initiative which I am sure will have some great outcomes for all involved.

A group of students undertaking the Child Studies elective went on a visit to a local child care centre to gain a real world perspective of how centres operate. By all accounts this was an enjoyable experience for all involved.

We are fortunate to have secured sponsorship from a local organisation again to offer two \$1000 Lincron Scholarships for students moving from Year 10 into Year 11 in 2017. Students have been advised of the availability of this scholarship and interested parties have submitted an application. Successful applicants will be announced at Annual Awards a Night.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a safe, relaxing holiday break.

### Deputy Principal Stage 6 - Mrs Glasson

Best wishes to all 2016 Year 12 students who have graduated this week. I trust that you will spend your time wisely preparing for the Higher School Certificate Examinations. The examinations are worth 50% of your overall mark so get studying!! If you need to speak to any staff prior to the examination make sure you contact the school to organise a convenient time.

You should all be very proud of your schooling achievements.

Congratulations also to the parents and carers of these fabulous students for your ongoing commitment and support!

Year 11 will begin their HSC year Term 4. I will be speaking with all year 11 students about their options to drop from 12 units to 10 units of study. Students will require permission from parents and carers for this to occur. Please speak with your son/daughter about this option.

**A reminder to all senior students that Mr McKinley our Careers Advisor is available for any career support students may need.**

Some year 11 students may be interested in the Certificate II Work and Vocational Employment Skills course. This is a 2 unit 120 hour course to be delivered by Job Quest. It will involve work placement and competencies will be delivered through project based learning. I will be speaking with Year 11 about the course Term 4 and contacting any parents/ carers of interested students.

A reminder to all senior students that Mr McKinley our Careers Advisor is available for any career support students may need.

Finally, to all students, have a safe, productive and enjoyable holiday break and we will see you all refreshed ready to undertake the challenges of Term 4!

**Stay up-to-date, click  
here to like the  
Kurri Kurri High School  
Facebook page:**



## Robotics Excursion - Mr Krause Science

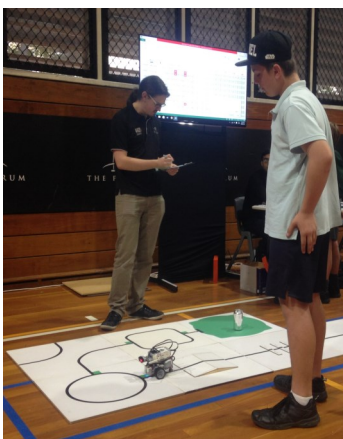
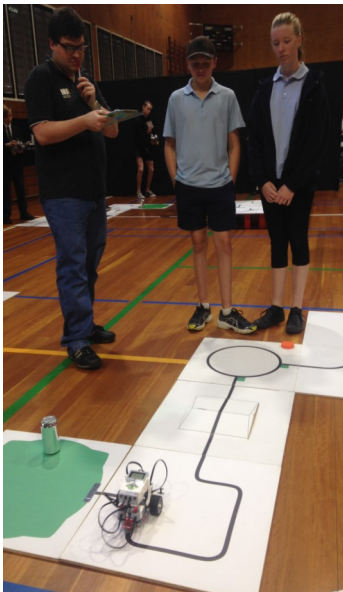
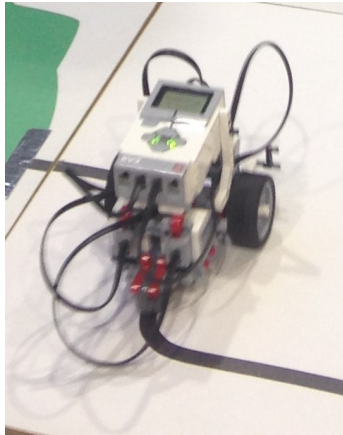
On Thursday Week 5, eighteen students from 8G Science travelled to the University of Newcastle to compete in the Secondary Robocup Junior competition.

The Robocup requires students to build and program Lego robots to navigate themselves along a black line, navigate bridges, speed humps and ramps, turn corners where green squares were placed and rescue a silver "victim" at the end of the course by pushing it out of a green "chemical spill" area.

Student groups had multiple attempts at multiple courses and were able to modify not only their programming between attempts, but also the physical design of their robots. Our students were forced to think on their feet and pool resources when two of the four laptops brought along ran out of battery charge! Despite the confusion and the chaos there were some fantastic rounds achieved and for one group in particular they were simply unlucky not to make the finals.

Although a gold medal was not achieved on the day, our students gained valuable experience in another area of STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Maths) and had a great time, especially at McDonalds on the way home!

**Our students were forced to think on their feet and pool resources**



## The Robots Venture to Kurri Kurri Pre-School - Mr Krause

As part of National Science Week, four of 8G Science's top robotics students, Sam Straker, Isaiah Williams, Deacon Fellowes and Jackson Wilson-Baker, recently travelled to Kurri Kurri Preschool to deliver a robotics workshop. These boys had not only previously mastered robotics construction and programming themselves, but were skilled enough to provide interactive demonstrations and elicit participation and interest from the tiny children at the Preschool.

Some of the activities included demonstrating a 'Gyroboy' robot which utilises a gyroscopic sensor to remain upright on two wheels, exhibiting a robot previously programed to follow a winding black line on the ground, as well as asking students to provide suggestions for what they wanted the boys to program the robots to do. While Sam wasn't able to program his robot to "fly up into the clouds" as one child requested, the boys were able to program simple tasks in front of the students including specific movements, noises and lights.

**...the boys were able to program simple tasks in front of the students including specific movements, noises and lights.**

The final event of the visit involved direct participation of the children where they remotely controlled robots using iPads to race each other. This activity was a clear winner at the preschool and gave the appearance of a demolition derby rather than a race, with robots crashing, clunking and colliding all over the place. Much to the delight of the onlookers, Deacon even got in on the action, controlling one robot to attack Gyroboy and send it wobbling around as it fought to maintain its balance.

At the end of the visit, the children had gained an increased level of understanding of robots and their operation, while our Kurri High students had demonstrated their programming competence, problem solving skills and flexibility to work with tiny children. Most importantly everyone involved had loads of fun! The Preschool children created a large "Thankyou robots" card that contained drawings and descriptions which they sent to the school to express their appreciation.

## A Friendly Reminder to Parents and Carers

**Teacher Interviews phone ahead of time to arrange appointments to speak with Teachers where possible to avoid disappointment. Early Leavers if parents could send a note with Student or call before 11.00am where possible so we can issue students with E/L Pass to avoid unnecessary disruption to classes and wait time for parents.**



### Special Education Faculty News - Mrs Atkinson HT Special Education

Wow!! What an exciting term we have had!

Lots of changes have happened this term and the students and staff have been kept very busy. We welcomed Mr Jarrod Johnson as the IM Class teacher this term and under his creative leadership, the students have produced a fabulous 'Anime' collage wall in their classroom and revamped the backyard with paving and fresh paint.

Our new Learning Support Officers this term, Mrs Kristy Lynch and Mrs Jo Cameron, have joined Mrs Tracey McDermott as a positive and enthusiastic support team that have worked tirelessly to provide individual support processes and programs to our students. Thank you ladies!!

Exciting events have occurred this term with our faculty being very well represented at the Edfest Art Exhibition. Jake Thornton's art work took out first place in the Life Skills section. Congratulations Jake! The students have also experienced a variety of excursions and community participation opportunities: Obiwan Academy, visits to local businesses as well as dining experiences.

We have also had a few VIP visits to our faculty this term. Our new Principal Mrs Tracey Breese joined our staff for a special luncheon. We thank her for taking the time to come and get to know the staff and our students. It was great time had by all! Pigley, Mr Johnson's pet pig came to visit the students as part of their HSIE learning. He managed to surprise all of us with how much like a pet dog he was, sitting on demand!

Some exiting news: Mrs Breese has signed off on an additional MC class for 2017. This new class will bring our faculty to four classes (IO, IM and 2x MC classes), 4 SLSO's, 4 Teachers including a Head Teacher. The new MC class provides the families of the Kurri Kurri area with further specialist education facilities and resources that they would normally only have to access to outside of our area. In honour of our new Principal and her dedication to providing the best specialist education to local students, the new class will be named MC Breese Room.

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### Sons of Obiwan Saber Academy - Miss Kermode



Some students from the Special Education faculty were lucky enough to be chosen to attend the mid-term rewards excursion to a Star Wars Lightsaber Academy.

The group of boys took part in a one hour class in which they learnt how to use Lightsabers and fight like the great Jedi Masters in a safe and inclusive environment.

It was an exhausting session as the boys used muscles they never thought existed and were all very sleepy on the bus ride back to school. All students represented KKHS brilliantly and their behaviour was exceptional. Everyone involved had a wonderful day and the smiles on the boys faces were proof of that!

### Pause for Paws - Toni Falk - District School Counsellor

Emmet and I were recently invited to participate in a canine conference hosted by Mount View High School. The conference, "Pause for Paws" was attended by school representatives, from across the state and even as far away as Queensland, who were all curious to see how we have been introducing Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) to various areas of school life here in our patch of the Hunter.

The Queensland School Principal who attended the day spoke highly about how the school environment could be impacted by the presence of a dog "Just the way a little animal can improve a whole culture and a whole community."

Trauma Informed Schools Australia representative, Michelle Montgomery endorsed the benefits of using appropriate pets in school settings to reduce anxiety and improve learning and a Guide Dogs NSW representatives also provided some information to help workshop participants understand how to choose a suitable dog and train them for AAI.

A range of programs with trained and temperamentally suited dogs are currently running in some of our local public and high schools. Here at Kurri High School, Emmet visits the support unit and regular classroom settings, participates in counselling sessions and mingles with students and staff in the playground during breaks. In other schools AAI dogs are helping with reading programs where the presence of a dog helps reduce the stress often associated with having to read out loud.

**[Click here to Email your comments about dogs in schools to: toni.falk@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:toni.falk@det.nsw.edu.au)**

At this point in time, I would like to get some feedback from parents and students about the inclusion of a dog as part of their school community. This can be in relation to your impressions about Emmet at Kurri High School or dogs working in any other schools you are aware of. If any parents or students have stories, questions or comments to share, I would love to hear from you.



### Getting HiP to it! - Mrs Weir HT Wellbeing



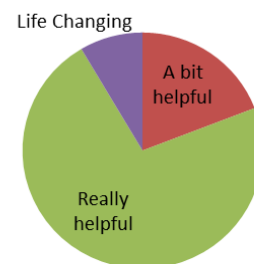
This year is the third year that I have been involved with the HiP Program and with each group that participates, I am reminded of the importance of preparing our young people well for entering the real world.

The HiP Program is not a classroom based day. Instead, with thanks to support from Kurri Kurri Bowling Club, we are able to take Year 10 students out to the Sebel Kirkton Park Pokolbin and provide skills, knowledge and practical information in an environment that is as much of a draw card as the program itself.

Joined by external presenters, participants rotate through a series of workshops. Workshops include: resume writing, first impressions and workplace etiquette, goal setting and self respect and resilience.

The following graph & comments show the overall response from the feedback given by students:

### How helpful has today been for you?



"I will look at things differently and realise that I have more than one option"

Several comments about "Be more confident in myself"

Lots of comments regarding "Think more about what I put on my resume" & "I will think about how present myself to an employer"

"I will think about my life choices"

"Care more about what is going on around me"



**Shaping Futures at Kurri Kurri PS - Mr McKinley Careers**

It is great to see students from Kurri Kurri High School making a positive impression on others in the local community. Four of our Year 11 students recently visited Kurri Kurri Public School to talk in front of their students about Careers and how life's journey can impact on future choices.

Kevin Cook, Ebony Keeley, Brayden Bean and Jed Kinch proudly represented our school in delivering to the primary students an insight into what their future plans are. It is never easy to speak in front of hundreds of people but KKHS can be proud of their effort and professionalism in helping the Primary school produce a great Careers day.



# P&C News

**Our next meeting is 25th October.**

**The final meeting for the year will be held on 22nd November.**

**We have decided to run a regular meeting in the Common Room combined with our "Social" and provide pizza and dessert as our end of year treat! All are welcome.**

**YEAR 12 UAC – Applying for University**

A reminder that the closing date for on time applications through UAC is fast approaching.

If you are intending on applying for university and you want to avoid a significant increase in processing fee, please submit your online application by Friday 30th September.

If you would like support or advice on the application process or how to list your course preferences, please make an appointment to see Mr McKinley ASAP.

Remember once you have completed the application process you can log in using the "check and change" function and make as many changes to your course preferences and personal details.

**UNE – Direct Early Entry and SRS (Schools Recommendation Scheme Applications).**

There are a number of students who have started the online direct entry application through UNE and SRS but are yet to complete or submit their application. Please ensure all applications are completed as a matter of urgency. This will allow the school enough time to respond and support your application by the closing date.

SRS applications close on Friday 30th September. If you are intending on applying for SRS, please submit this application as soon as possible.

**YEAR 10 2017 External TAFE Courses**

Thank you to the students who have signed up to undertake an external TAFE course in 2017. If you would still like to sign up for an external TAFE course you have until the end of term 3 – Friday 23rd September to register. Please see a list of courses available located on the notice board outside the Careers office OR click on the link below .

[TVET COURSES 2017](#)

### Our new Native Garden - Mr Scarcella

Over the past three terms, our Garden Team has been doing an amazing job transforming an existing but unused outdoor stage into a Yarning Circle and Native Garden celebrating Aboriginal culture. Great changes have been made with everyone contributing to the effort. The removal of the old plants was a time consuming job but thanks to the gardening teams super human strength they were able to tidy everything up and create a base to plant new plants.

It was fabulous to see the effort and team work that took place each week. Everyone got in and had a go and helped out their fellow peers when jobs got tough. Some of the new plants that have been put in are native edibles so in a year or two they should be producing some interesting fruit for students to try.

For myself, as a teacher, it has been a great experience so far to see such an amazing group of students come together and work collaboratively on this project. They should all be very proud of their efforts.

**It was fabulous to see the effort and team work that took place each week**



**You're going to be seeing a lot more of this guy around but...**

**WHO IS BAZZA???**

### Grease is the word.....

While it is always fabulous to showcase the great things that go on within our school, it is just as important to recognise the great students we have and the achievements they are making outside of our grounds.

Earlier this month three of our students joined 990 other young people as they successfully auditioned for a role in the iconic musical Grease. Chloe Musgrave in year 11, her younger sister Tiffani and Jessie Pull both in Year 8 will be appearing in the show to be staged next July in Newcastle. The girls will form a part of the ensemble cast that will bring to life the hits that have become somewhat timeless. Before then though, the girls will have an intensive boot camp to attend and rigorous rehearsals to commit to.

It is wonderful to see the talent that exists within our school and students extending themselves to be a part of bigger community events that may just be the stepping stones to their futures.



### CAPA News - Ms

Term 3 has been very busy, particularly with HSC practical exams. Congratulations to all our HSC students who completed all their practical exams during the last 6 weeks. Also, a big congratulations to all the teachers who gave up hours to rehearse and prepare students. Students now need to prepare for all their written exams. We wish year 12 all the very best for their final exams.

### CAPA out and about.....

Year 11 students travelled to Sydney to see the Archibald Prize and the Frida Kahlo exhibition. This was an exciting opportunity to see works from Frida Kahlo and her husband the famous muralist, Diego Rivera. These works seldom leave private collections or Mexico from where they hail. Having studied Frida Kahlo in class, the exhibition was particularly interesting to the students.

The Archibald Prize is Australia's most important portraiture prize where entrants must paint someone of note from life or a self-portrait. This meant there was a large variety of subjects and styles on show and the students were certainly impressed by both. It was an absolute pleasure to take such positive, polite and interested students to see these works.

### Operation Art

It is with pleasure that we announce that three applicants in the art competition 'Operation Art' were chosen to display their work at the Newington Armoury Gallery. Operation Art is a competition where students from years 7 to 10 are selected and paid entry by the school, to enter works that will eventually be hung in hospital waiting rooms where anxious parents and children wait. This is a worthwhile cause and an honour to be selected.

Shae Hunter, Jessica Gear and Sarah Smith were the successful entrants and their work will be on exhibition at the Newington Armoury Gallery from the 10<sup>th</sup> September till the 30<sup>th</sup> October from 10-4 pm daily.

### Weston Art Show

Congratulations to Year 11 student Chloe Wilson who took out first prize for Senior youth at the recent 2016 Weston Art Show. Chloe's entry titled 'Blue Bird' features an intricate drawing of many patterns and designs that encompass a tiny bluebird hidden in the pattern.

### Dramaworks

Kimberley Vince-Threw and Emily Llyod of Year 11 successfully participated in **Dramaworks** and their group has been chosen to perform at the State Drama Festival in Sydney during October. Well done girls,

### African Drumming Workshop

As part of their unit on World Music, Year 9 elective music classes participated in an African Drumming Workshop early this term. Benji from *Earthen Rhythms* ran a dynamic, fun and inspiring workshop using over 40 traditional African drums and instruments. Students learned about traditional African instruments, drum patterns and cultural customs.

### Important date to look forward to:

**Sydney Theatre Company A Midsummer Night's Dream – 18/9/16**



# Tuning in to Teens Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six-session parenting program for  
parents of adolescents aged 12-18years

Where: Cessnock Information &  
Neighbourhood Centre  
When: 10am - 12pm Monday mornings  
17th Oct to 21st Nov 2016

**Call Michelle on 0438 676 289 or 4936 2072  
to register your interest**



Assisting you to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your teen
- be better at understanding your teen
- help your teen learn to manage their emotions
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen
- teach your teen to deal with conflict

*Tuning in to Teens* shows you how to help your teen develop *emotional intelligence*. Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success

Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ



## Rep Sport Report Term 3 - Mrs Gavenlock PDHPE

Sport plays an integral role in assisting students to further develop the social attributes necessary to make them successful citizen. Attributes such as teamwork, communication, decision making and problem solving skills.

**It was great to see our students actively participating ... demonstrating our school core values of respect, safety and excellence.**

Our Year 7 students had the opportunity to put these skills into action at the Coalfields Zone annual **Year 7 Gala Day** on Friday September 9 at Maitland Park. The event was attended by 600 Year 7 students from the Coalfields High Schools. Students had the choice of participating in a variety of team games such as Girls Soccer, Girls Touch Footy, Netball, Boys Soccer, Boys Touch Footy and Mixed T-Ball. It was great to see our students actively participating in this event and demonstrating our school core values of respect, safety and excellence.



Thank you to the staff who ran events on the day, Mr Croker, Miss Kermode and Mrs Cole; your competence made the day run smoothly. Also thanks to Mr Davis and his Year 10 assistants who cooked the BBQ on the day and to the Peer Support Leaders who officiated and coached some of our teams. Lastly thanks to our Year 7 Year Advisor Mrs Knox who supported and encouraged our students all day.



The **CHS State Athletics Carnival** was held in Homebush last week with Kurri Kurri High students Aiden Harvey, Blake Whiteley, Brodie Linnane and Tyson O'Neill competing. All students performed well however special mention to Aiden Harvey for breaking the record in the 17 years and over Shot Put event with a throw of 19.11 metres. This broke the CHS record by more than 1m .

Year 7 student Tyson O'Neill also smashed a record in the Under 15 years 100m Para Event with a time of 14.38 seconds. Well done to all students who made it to State, the Kurri Kurri High School community are super proud of you!



## YEAR 7 GALA DAY

