



HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Term 3, 2015

CONNECTED

"In the world we are all butterflies and we need to be mindful of what happens when we flap our wings." David Suzuki

Interwoven, interconnected, inter-related, interbeing; everything is connected to something else. Connection is our overarching theme for the term in high school and each subject is a lens to exploration of this. In Geography, we study water as central to the web of life physically, socially, culturally and spiritually. In English, the focus is Social Media, another form of connection with its positives and pitfalls. In Astronomy, we connect to the cosmic rhythms of stars and planets, and the inter-relationship between



these and our human activity. In music and drama, the students are devising and composing for a musical theatre spectacular which will be performed in term 4, exploring the all important elements of relationships between people as well as the powers of music and speech in creative self-expression.

Here are some more of the highlights for this term in high school

- Science focus in National Science week; includes excursions to Warragamba Dam and Powerhouse Museum as well as in school Science Day
- Devising and composing musical theatre centred around life in a karaoke caravan park
- Singing workshops and performance with Wayfarers (from China, Taiwan and Japan)
- Eurythmy performance for Spring Celebration
- Astronomy evening at Linden Observatory
- Hiroshima Commemoration and Cultural Day, with presentations during stay of visitors from Japan
- Martial arts classes with self defence focus
- Life rhythms with John May
- Open Day exhibition of student work and performances

ENGLISH – SOCIAL MEDIA

In English we are studying social media, how it affects our society, privacy and safety issues, and how social media platforms can be used for good, or otherwise. Students will undertake their own research on a variety of social media platforms and present their findings to the class. We will explore and create a range of texts in order to examine the topic and our personal responses to it.

SCIENCE Y8-9-10 - ASTRONOMY, EVOLUTION, AND THE GOLDEN PROPORTION

Year 8 and 9 are investigating Astronomy of the planets, stars and the Milky Way. They will also study Golden proportion geometry of the human body and the pentagram.

The Streamwatch program continues and study is accompanied by outings to Linden star observatory, Warragamba Dam and participation in Sydney Science Week.

Year 10 are studying human evolution and the growth of theories about evolution.

MATHS

For year 8/9 we started the term with a tricky topic – Indices. There are four indices laws, individual each law is easy to learn but put together leads to head scratching and face contortions – a great topic for building neuron connections. We will end the term with surds (year 9) - another brain twisting topic. In between we will look at probability, ratio and rates (year 8), and squeeze in revise of percentages.

For year 10, term 3 is about consumer arithmetic. We will practice skills with percentages, simple and compound interest. Look at credit cards and loans. Throughout the term we will be following two characters and record their weekly income/ spending on a spreadsheet. They both have the same weekly income and rent. Ms Pennywise is saving for a 20% deposit for a flat, she is also interested in ethical spending, (research topic: what is ethical spending and saving?). Ms Footloose loves internet shopping, (research topic: how do you purchase safely over the internet?), she buys clothes and non essential items from ebay. She does not have a budget and her credit card has reached its limit. At the end of the term we will compare the two characters, who is financially successful?

GEOGRAPHY – FOR THE LOVE OF WATER

For the love of Water, incorporating physical and human elements in the global, Australian and local context. Lines of enquiry include scientific, cultural and spiritual perspectives on water as a human resource, the distribution of water in Australia and globally, water use and issues such as scarcity and pollution, and how these are managed. Fieldwork will include observation of weather, survey in regard to a water issue, excursion to Warragamba Dam, streamwatch and stormwater management in the Blue Mountains.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

'This term High-school are devising a musical theatre piece to be performed early in Term 4. A new theatre and music spectacle is unfolding as the High-school weave their compositional magic to tell a story of re-emergence, love and tolerance. Fast paced, energetic and rocking character driven adventures are starting to unfold to the sound of original music, pulsing beats and otherworldly sound effects.'

CONGRATULATIONS!



High School has recently been announced as the overall winner for the Regional Waste to Art, held in Bathurst, for their recycled costumes in A Mid Summer Night's Dream.

Dragonfly dance at Winter's Night



Fire poi routine at Winter's Night



Photographs courtesy of Ian Brown