

BILLABONG HIGHLIGHTS



Monday 16 December 2019 Term 4 Week 10B



Principal's Report

The final week of the 2019 school year is upon us, and we are busily but steadily moving towards closing time. The last day for students is Wednesday, while staff will attend for one more day of professional learning on Thursday. Student reports will be issued today, and tomorrow night we will recognise and celebrate student achievement at the Presentation Night.

While the end of each year seems like an appropriate time for reflection, the reality is that a lot of our school analysis and reflection occurs in an on-going way throughout the year, or at points that key data is released. For school planning and performance assessment, the significant data is NAPLAN results, HSC results, VALID (Science) results and Tell-Them-From-Me survey data (measures aspects of student wellbeing across the school and state). These measures give us information that supports our ability to measure student and school performance over time. Tomorrow

HSC results will be released across New South Wales, and we are expecting VALID results today. Tell-Them-From-Me survey data was released earlier this term, and of course NAPLAN results were released last term.

The whole-school success story of the year was undoubtedly our Year 9 NAPLAN results that reflected three straight years of improved student growth and took our 7-9 Value-Added data to above state average. Broadly, this means that we are now adding value to our students to a degree that is better than the majority of schools in the state. These results directly support the pursuit of our school vision and indicate that we are successfully achieving our stated aims. These scores are the result of individual student achievement and improvement. Put simply, our students are growing more in the areas of literacy and numeracy acquisition than they did before. In fact, our improvement in growth has



Stage 5 Metalwork

been so strong that I was invited by our Executive Director to present the data to 24 Directors who are responsible for overseeing approximately 600 schools across our state.

Having just finished the second year of our three year plan, we are very well placed for a productive and successful 2020. With Ms Nim in the deputy position, and Ms Bowen able to continue the Instructional Leader role into a third year, our teaching staff are very well supported to continue achieving ongoing improvement, and to keep driving improved outcomes for students. With the 'Thrive' initiative beginning next year, students should see an improvement in the number, depth, quality and choice of extra-curricular, arts and sporting activities, while not taking away our teaching and learning time. The health, wellbeing and engagement benefits we are hoping for will be very exciting to watch. I am confident that the quality teaching and

learning culture, coupled with the supportive high expectations culture we continue to build will have ongoing positive effects for students into 2020 and beyond.

On Thursday we will farewell a number of staff members who won't be returning in 2020. A particularly significant move is that Head Teacher Maths Mrs Cathy Tooney will be taking up a position in a Victorian school. As a key executive team member, Cathy has been a real pillar of professionalism and support for myself as well as many staff and students throughout the school over many years. While she won't be easily replaced, Cathy has built strong structures in the Maths faculty, supporting an ongoing improvement in maths qualifications for our staff, and significant numeracy improvement for students.

Also leaving are Ms Libby Baldwin and Mr Graham Dade. Ms Baldwin has accepted a teaching position at Hunter Sports High School in Newcastle, while Mr Dade heads to retirement (for the second time – he officially

Billabong Highlights



Above : Riverina Agriculture Careers Showcase

Below: Stage 5 Metalwork

retired in 2012). Other staff moving on are Dean Moss, Elise Shiels and Melissa Male. We wish all staff well in their future endeavours, and thank them for their contribution to student learning at Billabong High School. I wish students, staff and parents a safe and happy holiday break.

Kurt Wawzkowicz
Principal

Riverina Agriculture Careers Showcase

On Tuesday 10th December, a group of students interested in the Agricultural sector travelled with Mrs Toogood to Wagga to participate in a day all about careers. Students chose their area of interest to attend, from Wool industry; Ag Technology; Fencing; Horticulture; Animal Handling and Genetics; Ag Mechanical; Chemicals and Spraying. Thanks to NSW State Training for supplying a free bus and food for the day.



Calendar

Tuesday 17 December 2019

Presentation Evening

Wednesday 18 December 2019

Final day of Term 4

Wednesday 29 January 2020

Year 7, 11 and 12 return to school

Thursday 30 January 2020

Whole school return

Monday 3 - Tuesday 4 February 2020

Wollongong University Open Day

Friday 7 February 2020

Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 25 - Thursday 27 February 2020

Year 7 Camp



Below: Stage 5 Metalwork

Above - Tine with her mosaic table

