

# Peel High School

## Newsletter



Issue 9 - Term 4 - Week 3

26 October 2016

### School Leaders Induction

The 2017 Senior Leaders Induction Assembly was held Monday October 24th.

Congratulations to our incoming School Captains Jayden Eunson and Rhiannon Nigro along with Vice Captains Janaya Lamb and John Kirk.

Congratulations also to the other ten students inducted into their Senior Leadership positions.

The SRC Leadership Award this year goes to Olivia Flett, Will Makepeace and Maya Olrich for always going above and beyond for their school and consistently leading their peers with dignity and respect. An outstanding achievement to three well-deserving students. (there are more photos later in this edition).



### Calendar - Term 3

November 2	Year 5 Taster Day No. 2
November 7 & 8	Year 8 - Valid Test
November 11	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 14-18	Goodooga Excursion
November 21 - 24	Bonnyrigg Visit - Sydney
November 21	P&C Meeting 7pm
November 24	Disco

**Parents/Carers** - Our school uniform shop is able to assist in supplying the correct uniform.

**Parents/Carers** : Peel High School has experienced a substantial increase in student numbers this year. We are already processing enrolments for 2017. Please ensure that you contact the school office at your earliest convenience to obtain information relating to enrolment procedure.

### Parents please note:

Before School our playgrounds are unsupervised until 8.20am each morning and then only minimal supervision until Roll Call at 8.50am.

### Front Office Hours

8am to 3.45pm (Monday to Friday)

### Payment Office

8.30am to 3.30pm (Monday to Friday)



**General News:**

Congratulations to Keya Stevenson and her Year 10 English class who have received accolades from across the globe for their letters of kindness. ABC and local radio stations along with The Northern Daily Leader have given this story great coverage.



Last week saw our Senior Leaders Inducted into their positions for 2107. Congratulations to our incoming Captains, Jayden and Rhiannon along with Vice Captains Janaya and John.

Our combined Senior Leadership Team is made up of a very impressive group of young people that we look forward to being great ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to you all.



Congratulations also goes to Olivia Flett, Will Makepeace and Maya Olrich on receiving the SRC Leadership Award this year. This award is given to students who consistently demonstrate their ability to lead their peers with dignity and respect.



**Leading Lights**

**Dance :** We have received recognition for Year 9 student Sarah Vermeulen who represented the region in the State Dance Ensemble.

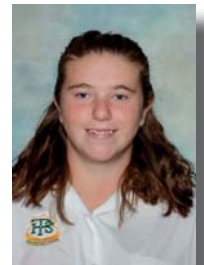


**Horse Sports:** Year 11 student Camira Singh recently took part in the Horse Sports event organised by Calrossy. Eighty riders competed in the events. Camira won the rider classes and received reserve champion and reserve highest point score overall.



**North West State Teams Championships:**

Year 9 students Bryttany Frost and Ashley Maunder competed at the North West State Teams Championships Tennis tournament in Grafton on 13th – 15th September. Bryttany and Ashley formed part of a team of 12 players. The team finished 12th.



**State All Schools**

**Athletics:** Year 10 student Tayla Parker competed at the State All Schools Athletics carnival on Saturday 15 October.



Tayla achieved a personal best time of 2 mins 57 sec in the 800m 16-19 years Para category and received a gold medal. She will now compete at Nationals in December.

Bill Campbell  
Principal

## CAPA Update

### Afternoon School Wind Ensemble - Free Instrument Hire – No Experience Necessary

Peel High has Wind Ensemble rehearsals each Wednesday from 3:30 – 4:30 in the afternoon. We are more than happy to supply your child with an instrument on the proviso that these rehearsals are attended. Beginners welcome!

Lunch time ensembles – Beginners Welcome

The following lunch time activities are currently underway in the Music block:

- Guitar Ensemble – Tuesday lunch in M1 (guitars provided)
- Percussion Ensemble – Thursday lunch in Theatrette (sticks provided)
- Vocal Ensemble – Friday Lunch in room M1

Any interested students are welcome

### Private Drum Lessons - Available

Private drum lessons are available during school time on Thursdays in our practice studio. We have been fortunate to secure the highly regarded local musician Dave Adams as a private tutor on this day. The cost is \$35 per half lesson.



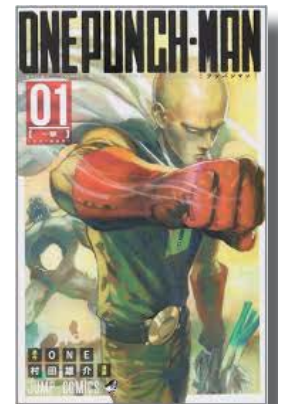
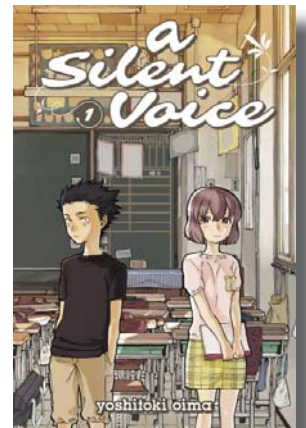
Lessons are available either weekly or fortnightly.

HSC Music Students: Our Year 12 students have now completed both their practical and written tasks for the Higher School Certificate. All students reported being happy with their efforts and feel they peaked at the right time. We wish them luck with the rest of their exams.

Anthony Walsmley  
HT CAPA

## News from the Library

Due to student demand the library has added to its Manga collection. These Japanese comics take readers out of their cultural comfort zones and introduce them to Japanese culture, food, folklore, traditions and expressions. Reading these books takes some adjustment as they are read “backwards” from right to left!



## PDHPE Faculty Report

The PDHPE staff room has had a much needed renovation. As a growing faculty, including the LOTE faculty, we have created a much more open and brighter environment to work in, even the students have commented how much it has improved our work space and access. The work was completed in the July holidays and with a little extra time spent on re-filing we were up and running in the first week of this semester. We are all very grateful for the extra space.

It is getting to that time of year where final assessment tasks will be due and students are reminded that late submission of tasks means they will lose 10% of their marks for each day late. Many students are coming well prepared for the theory lessons that are just as important a part of our subject as the practical participation.

PDHPE and CAFS Year 12 students have completed their HSC exams and we wish them the best of luck, hoping that the hard hours of study benefit those who made the effort and sacrifice.

Some Year 9 Survival in the Wild students and some of the students in Year 11 Sport Lifestyle and Recreation have their annual outdoor education excursion coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. This is a rewarding and challenging excursion allowing the students who have studied this topic to put some of the skills they have learnt into action on the five day camp. The excursion heads off to New England National Park for two nights and then onto Iluka on the coast for two nights.

Year 10 Coaching students have been active in the community, assisting with West Tamworth Public Schools' Athletics carnival at the end of June and recently assisted with activities for the Support unit class, running a variety of modified games and skill activities.

Year 9 coaching students have been travelling to Westdale and West Tamworth each week running a variety of ball sports and this term they are also running a skipping program in West Tamworth.

The Primary schools involved in the programs believe it is invaluable for the both the High School students and the primary and infant students as it build links and connect to the schools that will eventually be their new learning environment when the graduate.

Mr Wilsons Junior Boys Touch team won the Regional All School Carnival late term three and have qualified to compete in Sydney at the State finals in November. The team is training regularly during lunch time to further improve their skills.

Welcome to Miss Elspeth Richardson who has joined the LOTE faculty earlier last term. She has taken Mrs Gasson's position while she is on maternity leave and has been busy teaching and getting to know many junior classes. The students have been learning about families this semester, with Year 8 completing a family tree entirely in Japanese. Year 9 and 10 completed a portfolio in term 3 describing themselves and their families in detail. Year 8, 9 and 10 will wrap up the year with a unit on travel in Japan. Students will be compiling their own travel brochure they can use should they ever have the opportunity to visit Japan in future.



In the French and Italian LOTE classes students have discovered interesting facts about France and Italy and learnt about family and food. They made crêpes, created their own French/ Italian family trees and translated French and Italian recipes into English. Year 7 students have done very well in their final quiz, remembering a whole lot of information about the culture and geography of Italy. In their special unit students have cooked up a storm (crêpes, biscotti, cappuccino, spaghetti bolognese), built an Eiffel Tower out of sticks, flags and their own April's fool fish.

We hope that the students work hard this term to gain the most from their final term for 2016.

Mrs Louise Taylor

PDHPE Head Teacher.

## Charity Challenge for Selective Students

The importance of charities was the issue that was explored by Year 8 Selective students as part of their enrichment task this year.

The students chose a charity that they believed was worthy of their support and submitted a fund-raising scheme to a “shark tank” of teachers. They also had to answer questions from the teachers about the importance of their chosen charity.

Mr Peters, who was on the judging panel, did not hold back when it came to asking the difficult questions.

The enrichment task is designed to extend the selective students and provide insight into real world problems. This year the task involved designing a poster to promote and illustrate the importance of the charity.

“The groups were really passionate about the charities that they chose,” GAT Coordinator Kristen Miller said.

“It was great to see the students demonstrate an interest in supporting these charities.”

Some of the charities that were chosen included the Cancer Council, WIRES, the RSPCA and the Smith Family. The students also had to devise a scheme to raise money for their charity as part of the task.

“The general standard was very good. It was wonderful that the students genuinely cared about the importance of these charities,” Mrs Miller said.



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## Support Faculty Report

It has been a busy three terms in the Support Faculty. Students have participated in a range of activities.

Miss Martin's class have been working on their writing skills and have produced some interesting information reports as well as developing procedural text types. Allambie Towns, Harold Murray, Braithie Cope and Dylan Russ are developing skills by participating in the Landcare Program at the Wetlands each fortnight. These skills may assist them in gaining employment in the future.

Mr Hadden's class is developing their gardening skills by growing a variety of vegetables, as well as collecting, cleaning and selling eggs as a part of their Science program. Students continue to enjoy their time at Riding for the Disabled and will begin swimming again this term. Uriah Towns has been undertaking weekly work experience at the Marsupial Park and Zac Ranclaud and Curtis Elliot have been gaining skills in hospitality through assisting in the School Café.



The students in the Multicategorical Class continue to work hard on their Individual Education Plans in English, Mathematics and HSIE. Alexandra Wilkes is participating in a volunteer program at the Northcott Society, as well as gaining work experience at the School Café.

Mr Gason's and Mr Hadden's class have begun weekly shopping as a part of their Mathematics program. They will implement the "next dollar up strategy" that they have been practising in class. Students from Mr Gason's class are participating in the Landcare project at the wetlands as a part of their Science and Agriculture Program.

We would like to wish Year 12 students Kerepi Trindall, Zac Ranclaud and Jayden Wrench, who leave the Support Unit this year, all the best in their future endeavours.



Learning and Support Teachers, Mrs Gudgeon and Mrs Owen, have been conducting a small group transition program for students who require extra support coming into Year 7 next year. Towards the end of the term, they will be contacting the carers of students with learning adjustments to discuss any changes for the 2017 school year. We would also like to welcome Mrs Laura Yeo to the Support Faculty, she has replaced Mr Rob Smith as a Learning and Support Teacher 3 days a week.

Kim Falkenmire

Head Teacher

## Ant Attack

Oxley Vale students plunged into their wet and dry studies by visiting the Peel Wetlands. They dipped into the wet environment, netting small water bugs - they found that bugs are wily and agile creatures that are not easy to capture. Neither were the Purple Swamp Hens easy to see, the birds kept their distance. However, the Year 1 and 2 students enthusiastically constructed dry nests and were enthralled when one young man found a millipede.

Oxley Vale teacher, Michelle Issac and her team brought two class groups, of Year 1 and 2 to the Peel Wetlands. The students were studying wet and dry environments. Sue Doolan (PHS), Brett Coble and Joseph Ross-Ward from the Peel Wetlands Landcare Group, held a workshop on water creatures. In the meantime, I explained the lifestyle of one of my favourite and resilient birds- the Purple Swamp Hen.

The only thing that marred the children's afternoon was the nasty ant attacks. One fellow was attacked mercilessly when the ants became entrapped in his trousers. (The title of this article was suggested by this plucky child). Later, I too was tormented by them and found my attitude to ants has been tainted. I will be cheering for the grasshoppers next time I view *A Bug's Life*.

Ms Issac remarked, *The kids had a really great time! Would you kindly pass on our thanks to all your helpers as well.*

*Written: Beth Ross Ward*





## *Attendance Policy*

### **School Attendance – “It’s not OK to be away”**

All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can students make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Schools, in partnership with parents/carers, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff and the Peel High School Head Teacher of Attendance, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL WHEREVER POSSIBLE:**

- Provide a safe learning environment enabling students to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Work with parents, carers and the local community to increase student attendance
- Monitor all student attendance and work with students and parents/carers to improve attendance where a concern has been raised
- Provide support through the school Welfare Team to address concerns leading to poor attendance
- Promote the benefits of regular school attendance
- Deliver quality curriculum based lessons
- Implement a reward system for 100% attendance and improved attendance
- Provide parents/carers timely feedback on all daily absences and fractional truancy

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT:**

- Attend school consistently and actively participate in learning opportunities
- Whilst present at school attend all lessons promptly
- Attend school wearing the correct school uniform
- To comply with the school's welfare and discipline code

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS/CARERS:**

- The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children are enrolled at and regularly attend school.
- Provide written or verbal confirmation regarding student absences. If a student has more than 3 unexplained/unjustified absences in the previous 5 week period, that student will be placed on the Attendance List and will be unable to participate in extra-curricular activities until attendance improves.
- Work alongside Peel High School to promote 100% attendance.

#### **WHAT IS A JUSTIFIED REASON FOR BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?**

Justified reasons for absences may include the student:



- Having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstances (such as attending a funeral)
- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- Any other leave permitted by a doctor or psychologist for ongoing mental health or general health concerns (documentation must be provided to the school to support this leave)

#### **ABSENCES FOR REASONS SUCH AS SOME OF THE FOLLOWING MAY NOT BE JUSTIFIED:**

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts

#### **LATE ARRIVAL NOTICE TO PARENTS:**

Peel High School sends out mobile text messages to primary carers when students arrive late to school. This is to ensure parents/carer's are aware of their child's late attendance on any given day.

Parents and carer's can now promptly respond to explain their child's late arrival to school.

Mobile text messages will also be sent to primary carers indicating a student's absence if communication has not been received by the school that morning explaining the absence.

We thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support of the Peel High Attendance Program and our efforts to provide positive learning outcomes for our students.

#### **KEEPING THE SCHOOL INFORMED:**

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence the **student's primary carer may:**

- Send a note or email to the school
- Telephone the school's Back Office
- Visit the school and speak to someone in person
- Respond to the text message sent by the school

**The Principal (or delegate) of the school has the right to question an explanation given for a child's absence from school. Where a pattern of absence is identified, the Principal (or delegate) may request parents/carers to submit documentation justifying absences in the future. If documentation can't be presented to the school, the absences may be recorded as unjustified.**

#### **HOLIDAYS:**

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary parents should discuss these absences with the Head Teacher of Attendance at which point an Attendance Exemption from attendance at school may be put in place. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

**ARRIVAL ON TIME:**

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- Reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

**MUST MY CHILD ATTEND ALL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING SPORT)?**

YES. Sport and other physical activities help the healthy physical and mental development of children. Sport and sports carnivals are normal school activities and students must attend.

Students are NOT encouraged to use sport afternoon to attend appointments. Participation in sport is an important part of their development and education.

Should a student be absent from sport, a note or primary carer phone call must be received by the Back Office prior to 12pm. Students who consistently fail to attend sport may receive a request for documentation to justify absences during sport. **If documentation can't be presented to the school, the absences may be recorded as unjustified.**

**CONSEQUENCES:**

At Peel High School the consequences or impacts of unexplained or unjustified absences might include the following:

- Ineligibility to represent school in sporting teams
- Ineligibility to represent school in extra-curricular activities
- Exclusion from Year Days and non-mandatory excursions, and;
- Exclusion from school functions such as school discos.
- As per Peel High School policies, students who have paid deposits, or part thereof, for excursions may not be able to have any money refunded if their behaviour or attendance is unacceptable.

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS:**

All students should:

- Aim for 100% attendance
- When absent, provide a justified reason for the absence
- Be on time and ready for all school activities and lessons
- When late, make sure you sign in at the Back Office
- Ensure they go through the Back Office if sick and need to go home early

## PEEL HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

Our uniform shop is open for business each Monday and Thursday from 8.30 to 10.00 am

We are located in the Administration Block

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

White school shirts are to be worn on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays**

The **GREEN SPORTS POLO** is **ONLY** to be worn on Wednesdays and during PE practical lessons as required by teachers

#### Summer Uniform

**Girls:** Short tartan design skirt, or black dress shorts, white cotton shirt, short white socks, black leather shoes, black knitted cardigan or jumper.

**Boys :** Black shorts (drill cotton), white cotton shirt, short white socks, black leather shoes, black knitted jumper.

#### Winter Uniform

**Girls:** Long tartan design skirt or black slacks (no tights), white cotton shirt, tie, black cardigan or jumper, black stockings or white socks, black leather shoes.

**Boys:** Long black cotton trousers, white shirt, short black socks, black leather shoes, tie and black knitted jumper.

*Note: Junior and Senior ties available for purchase from the back office.*

#### **Sports Uniform**

**Summer - Girls & Boys:** Bottle green polo shirt with gold emblem. Black sports shorts with Peel embroidered on, white socks, gym shoes/ sand shoes/ joggers.

**Winter - Girls & Boys:** Summer uniform plus green embroidered emblem sloppy joe and plain black track suit pants (these are worn over the usual sports uniform on cold days).



## Peel High School Variation of Routine Report Proforma

We have included a copy of our VOR report for the purpose of informing parents/carers and students that we would like the opportunity to report on students involvement and successes in activities outside of school events, such as sporting representations and community service involvements.

As the school is not always aware of participation in events outside of school, for them to be acknowledged it is the students responsibility to collect a copy of this form from the front office prior to the event and return it to the office after participation in your activity including information that is outlined on the form.



## Peel High School VOR Report

### DETAILS OF EXCURSION

<u>DETAILS OF EXCURSION</u>			
Name of Excursion / Visit			
Learning Area		Teacher in Charge	
Other Staff Attending			
Dates and Times			To

*Orientation States:* who was involved in the event, what it was, where and when it happened.

*Sequence of events:* States a series of events that happened from start of the retelling. The events are retold in the time order that they occurred.