

Peel High School

Newsletter



Issue 9 - Term 3 - Week 9

22 September 2017



Year 12 student Curtis Wolrige receives Minister's Award for Student Excellence

See Principal's Report for full story.

Calendar - Term 3

- September 22 Year 12 Assembly
Last Day of Term 3
- October 9 Term 4 commences for
students and staff
- 25th October – Year 5 Taster Day
- 1st November – Year 5 Taster Day
- 15th of November – Year 6 Treasure Hunt
- 5th December – Year 6 Orientation Day
Formal welcome assembly

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)



Principal's Report

Welcome to our September Newsletter

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Minister's Awards for Student Excellence in Sydney to watch Curtis Wolrige of Yr. 12 be presented with this prestigious award. Curtis was one of 35 students across the state to be acknowledged for outstanding student achievement. It was a very proud day for Curtis, his family and also myself as it just goes to show that students in the bush have the same opportunities to excel as their city counterparts. See below Curtis's recipient citation from the award presentation evening.



Curtis has demonstrated great leadership skills throughout his high school years. He has been a member of the Student Representative Council, Senior Leadership Team and through this work has gained experience working with the local media on school matters. In 2016 Curtis was part of the Peer Support Program helping Year 6 students to transition into Year 7 and in 2017 he worked in another program helping Year 7 students with their reading. Curtis is a major LGBT activist for students and participated in an anti-bullying march. His academic achievements are impressive. In his studies of Advanced, Extension 1 and 2 English he is ranked in the top three pupils and also in Modern History, Aboriginal Studies and Society and Culture, he is again, ranked in the top three. He has represented the school and the region in state level debating and participated in many school theatrical productions. Curtis is a sport house captain and his assistance in organising events such as athletics and swimming carnivals has earned him high regard amongst his fellow students and teachers.

Year 12 are in their final days of school and now it's that hard study slog to the HSC Exams. On behalf of our school and our community I would like to congratulate the Class of 2017 and wish them the very best for their exams. They are certainly a fine

group of young men and women and have done our school proud. I look forward to your final assembly of Friday.

Recently I formed a merit selection panel for the Head Teacher English position. I am pleased to announce that Ms Erin Stewart was the successful applicant through this process and will be permanently appointed as our Head Teacher English from day one of Term Four. Congratulations Erin. You will be an outstanding member of the executive team.

Mr Greg Parker will retire on Thursday 12th October after 28 years of service to our school. Congratulations and thank you Greg for a stellar career. You have supported and guided hundreds of students in your time at Peel High School and been an amazing mentor for our teaching staff as well. Best wishes from PHS and our community.

I have submitted our student enrolment projections for 2018 and they are 714. We will have 138 students entering Yr 7. This is wonderful news for our school, but what this does mean is we are now very close to our student ceiling and will not be able to enrol students from outside our drawing area. There are always exceptions and this is mostly around siblings of existing students here. I believe this is a real vote of confidence in what we are doing at Peel High School and we will continue to review our practices and programs to improve the learning outcomes for all students.

When we return to school after the Spring break the weather will have certainly warmed up. I am asking all families to support our school's uniform policy and have your children in our summer uniform from day one. They look so terrific when everyone is in uniform and it displays a real pride in our school.

Happy and safe Spring break to everyone and I am looking forward to Term 4 and the run to the end of the year.

Rod Jones
Principal

HSIE Faculty Report

International Studies: This term International Studies took off in Year 8. It is the first time the elective has been offered and it has proved to be a popular choice with students. The class have been working on multiculturalism in Australia and how the world interacts with us through the study of stereotypes.

The class were also lucky enough to be paired with a Year 9 English class from Moontae High School located in South Korea. Our classes met and interacted using the school Virtual Meeting Room (VMR) in the library. Our classes have had both a formal and informal aspect to them. Students have given Power Point presentations to each other through the VMR.

One of the great aspects of this has been the students learning to interact with people who are about their age but come from a very different cultural background (Peel students were shocked to hear that students in South Korea are at school from 8am till 10pm at night, either in class, studying or in clubs).



Many of the students have taken the opportunity to ask questions about the different type of life our sister class have and the different types of music and food that they eat. The South Korean school even attempted to teach our students how to dance K-Pop style, resulting in some of our students learning to dance, K-Pop style! Our students have enjoyed their time in International Studies especially when we interact with our sister school.

Year 11 Legal Studies: The tides have turned in Year 11 Legal Studies. Recently, the students have become the teachers preparing a worksheet and mini lesson on their given topic of a statutory body that aims to resolve disputes.



The class also started this term off with a heated debate on the appropriateness of taking into account an offenders young age during sentencing and some excellent points were raised by both sides. Legal Studies also visited the local and district courts in order to further increase their understanding of the Australian Legal System.

Year 10 Commerce: This class also visited the Tamworth Court recently to view a local hearing. Their teacher, Ms Barnett, said that the students gained a lot from the experience and were happy with the final verdict.



The Commerce class also conducted a mock trial with Ashley Maunder and Casey Cone forming the prosecution team and Lauren McGill forming the defence. This enabled the students to learn more about the workings of a courtroom as well as the conduct required.



Year 10 Geography: Although the Year 10 classes have now started learning about History in their HSIE classes. last term students learnt about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and reusing plastic bags. As a part of this the Year 10 DV class conducted a plastic awareness forum. The Year 10 DV and P classes also made outfits out of plastic bags. The teachers of these classes reported that many of these plastic bag outfits looked very stylish.



Year 9 Aboriginal Studies: A group of Year 9 Aboriginal Studies students travelled to the Myall Creek Memorial site at the start of this term. This was part of a case study on the Myall Creek massacre. "It was an insightful and moving experience for the students and has provided the class with much to talk about," Year 9 Aboriginal Studies teacher Mrs Burges explained.



Society and Culture: Both the Year 11 and Year 12 Society and Culture classes have been able to hone their interviewing skills with guest speakers who have heritage from other countries speaking to the classes. This enabled the students to gain valuable, first-hand, thought-provoking insights into aspects of another country.

Meanwhile, the Year 12 class were able to complete the milestone of their Personal Interest Project (PIPs). Year 12 Teacher, Mrs Miller, said her students should be proud of their final research project.

Mrs Miller explained, "All the students worked extremely hard to get this massive research project completed. The topics covered this year included public breastfeeding, acceptance of homosexuality in schools, female jockey discrimination and the devaluing of marriage over time. "I now wish them all well for their final HSC exam."

Year 7 History: Mrs Herdegen's Year 7 History class is currently studying Ancient China. The students have been learning about what life was like in Ancient China & how their lifestyle differs from today. In week 8, 7H took part in a cooking class where they made a traditional Chinese dish. The students who participated were extraordinary! We're looking forward to studying Ancient Egypt next term.





Peel High School

Phone: 6765 7088

PO Box 7005, MEMSC

88 Gunnedah Road

Fax: 6765 3506

Tamworth 2348

Tamworth 2340

Email: peel-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Parents and Carers

Peel High School will transition to the new NSW Public Schools' finance system and a new bank account on 16 October 2017.

To ensure a smooth transition, there will be changes to the way we accept payments from parents and carers.

1. **Direct deposits:** As of 15 September 2017, we will no longer accept direct deposits into our current school bank account as we prepare to close this account and transition to the new one. Any payments made using direct deposit after this date cannot be properly allocated to a student's account in a timely manner. Please ensure you have made any outstanding direct deposits before 15 September 2017.
2. **EFTPOS payments:** We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between 15 September and 16 October 2017. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before 15 September, 2017. From 17 October 2017, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.
3. **Cash and cheque payments:** Between 15 September 2017 and 17 October 2017, we will also not be able to accept payments by cash or cheque as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding cash or cheque payments before 15 September 2017. From 17 October 2017, cash and cheque payments will be accepted as before.
4. **Online payments:** As of 15 September 2017, payments to our current online payment facility will cease. From 18 October 2017, we will begin to accept online payments using the Department of Education's Parent Online Payment (POP) system. A button to access this new online payment system titled '\$ Make a Payment' will be visible on the utility bar on the front page of our school's website at <http://www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/> By selecting this link, parents and carers will be taken to a secure Westpac QuickWeb payment page from which they can make online payments.

Please note: As a Westpac-hosted solution, cardholder and account details will be held securely helping to protect the school and its customers from fraudulent transactions as well as assisting in meeting the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) compliance requirements.

INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POP SYSTEM CAN BE FOUND HERE:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schools-finance/parent-online-payments-pop/pop-documents/Parent-Online-Payments-Instructions-for-Schools-December2016.pdf>

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to our new finance system. If you have any questions, please contact Peel High School (02) 6765 7088

Yours sincerely

R Jones
Principal
Peel High School

From the library

Holiday Reading

Valentine by Jodi McAlister

This fantasy has it all, romance, lust, hate and murder. Pearl and Finn Blacklin must work together to protect themselves against the monstrous unseelie who have come to kill the Valentine changeling. The problem is, as much as Pearl despises Finn, she can't control the chemistry that explodes every time she is with him. This is an edgy and gripping read and is most certainly not a fairy-tale. 5/5



Wonder by R. Palacio

Auggie is a brave, funny, clever 10 year old boy who is starting school. Auggie doesn't look like everybody else though as he has a severe face deformity. Filled with tender and thought provoking moments this is a thoroughly enjoyable and moving read. 5/5



Yellow by Megan Jacobson

Kirra is having a hard time at home and at school. Her parents have split, her mother's turned into a raging alcoholic and her supposed friends are bullying her and excluding her. To top it all off a ghost is talking to her through a broken phone booth! A well written, captivating story, this novel is both enjoyable and original. 4/5



Year 8 Theatre Sports Fun

Year 8 Drama students, Matthew Staples, Lily Fox, Tara Withers and Zara Garrett accompanied by Mr Povea, recently spent time at Woolomin Public School teaching students how to play theatre sports. All the students involved had lots of fun and the feedback from the day has been extremely positive.



REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS & CARERS

As a safety precaution, should you need to drop any items off to your child during school hours please drop them into the front office.

Students are not permitted to meet you outside school grounds or wait near the front or back gates/fence to collect items from you.

This is a safety issue.

News from the Coaching in the Community Classes

The Year 10 *Coaching in the Community* class has recently completed the Community Coach Training Program. The course has included modules such as communication and behaviour management, safe environments, nutrition and well-being as well as the planning and delivery of Playing for Life Games. Students have also completed a series of online coaching courses to gain accreditation and certificates to add to their coaching credentials.

The Year 10 coaching students have planned a series of thirty minute lessons for presentation at our partner primary schools. They have been presenting the *Playing for Life* Games program to Year 2 students at Westdale Public School each Friday and Year 3 students at Tamworth West Public School each Tuesday during this term. The Year 10 students have presented a variety of target, invasion, net and court and striking and fielding games as part of the *Playing for Life* Games program. Peel High School is very grateful to Mrs Kathie Jackson and her staff from Westdale Public School and to Mrs Joh Mulligan and her staff from West Tamworth Public School for allowing us to visit and work with their students.

The Year 9 *Coaching in the Community* class has been working towards completing the General Principles of Coaching course. Successful students will receive a certificate in recognition of this achievement from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. Peel High School is very grateful to Ms Gaylene Ryan for her continued support of the Peel High School Coaching program, an association which began in 1997.

The Year 9 coaching students have been presenting the *Active Schools Connexion* program to Year 1 students at both Westdale Public School and Tamworth West Public School this term. The Year 9 students have prepared a series of three progressive sports skill lesson plans for two different sports. These sports have included Miniball, Soccer, Touch, Minkey Hockey, Kanga Cricket, T-ball and Netta Netball. The Year 9 class has really enjoyed working with the Year 1 students and watching them learn a variety of new sporting skills. Thank you to the staff from both Westdale and West Tamworth Public Schools for giving the Year 9 coaches an opportunity to work with their students.

Coaching visits to Westdale PS, Tamworth West PS and Tamworth South PS will recommence in week 1 of term 4 for both the Year 9 and Year 10 *Coaching in the Community* classes.

Congratulations to all the coaching students for their achievements so far and for meeting the many challenges they have had placed before them. These students are helping to portray Peel High School in a very positive manner in the wider community.

T Parker & M Flanagan



SRC Recent Events

The SRC ran a fundraising BBQ at BC Bike Shop on the 9th of September. A massive thanks to Tiegan Hobson, Ania Braiding and Tabitha Miller for giving up their Saturday morning to fundraise for the SRC!



The SRC also held it's annual 'Night at the Movies' as their farewell social event for the Year 12 graduating class of 2017. Just over 60 students attended the night. The first movie shown was Moana and this was a clear favourite amongst the crowd present. The second movie selected didn't appease everyone though, however the girls in the crowd loved singing every word to the Grease anthems. Rhiannon Nigro and Emily Clarke did an amazing job of running intermission games with Damien Christoff proving almost unbeatable. The SRC sold popcorn, pizza and lots of other yummy treats on the night raising a total of \$427 for the SRC. A massive thanks to all the SRC who attended the night and to those representative who worked so hard to make the night such a success!



Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Since the start of term, students in years 7 and 8 have been busy making origami paper cranes to send to Japan, to commemorate those lost in the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The cranes that these students have made will be sent to the Children's Peace Memorial Shrine in Hiroshima, at the start of Term Four.

Paper Cranes have become the symbol of the Hiroshima bombings, because of a Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was only two years old when the bomb was dropped, but she survived. When she was in primary school she decided to make 1000 paper cranes for the victims of the bombing. She was inspired to do so by the Japanese legend that one who created a thousand origami cranes would be granted a wish. Unfortunately, Sadako was diagnosed with Leukaemia (because of radiation she was exposed to from the bombing). She passed away at aged 12, before she finished making all the cranes. Her classmates finished the cranes for her and they are currently at the Peace Shrine in Hiroshima.

In keeping with the tradition of Sadako's story, the target for Peel High School students was to make 1000 cranes. The total currently sits at 1,108, and counting. This is mainly due to three standout students; Maddison Smith-Hall, Charlie Hazlewood and Aston Jeffrey. These students gave up their own time (including breaks, after school and at home) to make these cranes.

Everyone involved in making the cranes has done a fantastic job, and should be proud of their efforts.

Miss Porter - LOTE



Charlie Hazlewood, Maddison Smith-Hall and Aston Jeffrey with Miss Porter

Peel High School Transition

On Friday the 15th of September, we hosted 35 students from our smaller feeder schools at our first ever 'small school transition day'. Those students who are coming from schools where there are only 2 or 3 students in Year 6, now have some friendship groups forming, which will make their transition to high school so much easier. The students took part in teaching building and resilience activities, an art class, a cooking class, a school tour where they had a look at our growing agricultural plot and met some of their future teachers.

We're looking forward to our term 4 transition days;

Wednesday 25th October – Year 5 Taster Day

Wednesday 1st November – Year 5 Taster Day

Wednesday 15th of November – Year 6 Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 5th December – Year 6 Orientation Day – Formal welcome assembly

Mrs Herdegen & Mr Shaun Betts

Transition coordinator & Year 7 Year Advisor 2018



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



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.

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 UNIFORM



Summer

Winter

Sport

Jacket



The Peel High School P&C Uniform Shop is open Mondays & Thursdays from 8.30am-10am
Payments can be made via Cash, Credit, EFTPOS or Cheque (payable to Peel High School P&C)

For further enquiries call the Peel High School on 67657 088

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.

