

# Terrigal High School NEWSLETTER

Featured here is a collaborative artwork  
by THS Aboriginal students

## Newsletter No.35, Term 4, December 2020

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## Principal's Report

### Staff Farewells

This year we are farewelling valued staff. Sarah Walton has been filling Mr Watson's classes whilst he has been on leave. He returned on December 10<sup>th</sup> and we wish Ms Walton all the best. Amanda Bruce has been filling Mr Coroneos' role as he has been performing other duties. Ms Bruce has secured a permanent position at a school in Sydney and we wish her the best for her future teaching career.

Ms Anderson has secured the Head Teacher position at Maitland Grossman High School which is much closer to home for her. She has been instrumental in leading our English Faculty through significant syllabus changes, facilitated professional discussions to deepen understanding in best practice with assessment and marking and led improvements in NAPLAN literacy achievement across the school. We wish Ms Anderson all the best for her career.

Karen Watson has been involved at THS since our inception in 1978. As a PDHPE teacher Karen is passionate about sport and physical activity and has dedicated her life at THS to support student participation at all levels. From the introduction of recreational sports such as beach walking to the elite levels, representing school sport Australia. Karen has managed school and Sydney North teams for basketball, swim, athletics and cross country, coordinated NSW and Australian basketball and triathlon championships. Her liaison role for Pacific

Schools Games was highly recognised by international competitors. Karen's dedication and contribution to school sport has been recognised by the Department of Education as an outstanding achievement with this been awarded for excellent service to school sport and physical activity programs.



We wish Mrs Watson all the very best in retirement. She will be truly missed here at Terrigal High School.

### End of Term

School will be non-operational on Thursday December 17 & Friday December 18 2020. As advised staff have completed Professional Learning outside of school hours throughout the year and the school will be closed on these dates.

I wish everyone a wonderful break, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Turik  
Principal

# ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY

On Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> THS hosted our first ever “livestream” Academic Awards Ceremony for years 7 to 11. Well done Ms Rankin and Ms Evans for their pioneering spirit in moving this event to the online mode!

Our School Captains, Allanah P and Cameron W, did a fantastic job of hosting the event and well done to all the students who presented and performed in the ceremony.

Congratulations to all the students who received First in Course and Commitment to Studies Awards.

A special mention to the following Major Awards recipients;

WIN (Writing Improvement Now)

**Lauren G**

Defence Forces Long Tan Leadership Award for Year 10

**Lauren G**

Most Outstanding Student for Academic Performance for Year 7

**Leilani H**

Most Outstanding Student for Academic Performance for Year 8

**Josiah P**

Most Outstanding Student for Academic Performance for Year 9

**Max B**

Most Outstanding Student for Academic Performance for Year 10

**Sebastian S**

Most Outstanding Student for Academic Performance for Year 11

**Allanah P**

“We Strive” Student of Year 7

**Leilani H**

“We Strive” Student of Year 8

**Saoirse D**

“We Strive” Student of Year 9

**Bronte H**

“We Strive” Student of Year 10

**Liam R**

“We Strive” Student of Year 11

**Imogen H**

“We Strive” Student of the Year

**Allanah P**



**“WE STRIVE”**

## ABORIGINAL DANCE STUDENTS WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

On the Friday of Week 7 our Aboriginal Dance students performed a traditional east-coast welcome ceremony for our two new permanent members of teaching staff. Both Ms Roberts (Head Teacher of Administration) and Mr Court (Science) were taken through a traditional ceremony in which newcomers to a new space have to go through to be officially welcomed and trusted amongst the local community.

The ceremony began with our boys wielding spears in a threatening manner, followed by a trusted teacher approaching to question the newcomer's intentions.



Once our trusted teacher believed that they were well intended, the newcomer can then enter with the boys whose spears are now lowered. Following this the newcomer takes part in a cleansing ceremony where our girls brush away any bad spirits from the newcomer's past with the use of gum leaves. To finish the ceremony our students performed a welcome dance to wish the newcomers a safe journey here at Terrigal High School.



Terrigal High School Aboriginal Education Team

## MY ROAD GIRLS MENTORING PROGRAM

On December 10<sup>th</sup> thirteen Year 10 students attended the webinar mentoring session. The girls had inspirational and valuable career conversations with:

1. Rose Xu-4<sup>th</sup> year Biomedical student at ACU
2. Helen Winter-Lawyer/Volunteer
3. Luke Turner-Head of People & Culture, Corporate Technology Services
4. Justin Wong-Financial Risk Data Analytics at Ernst & Young
5. Joost Kramers-Project Manager, Aon

All of the students were enthused about their conversations with their mentors and said the morning was fantastic! The students said they had learnt new ways to think about what kind of future job or career would be right for them!



Ms Bates  
Careers

# BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants were able to do their adventurous journey to complete their Bronze Award this year. It has been a difficult year for participants trying to get their volunteer, physical activity and skill activity hours completed to qualify. Most of them have been able to complete the majority of their hours, which is a testament to their commitment to this Award.

We completed a local adventurous journey and camped overnight at the school. This enabled us to be Covid safe.

Day one the students walked the 5 Lands Walk track from school to McMasters beach. It was a long day with the students completing approximately 23 kms carrying their full pack. Day two the students walked from school to Crackneck Lookout, this day was very hot, so we started the day early to get it completed before the temperature soared. By the time we finished the walk the temperature was 33C which is too hot to be walking carrying a full pack. We experienced a short storm with thunder, lightning and rain (which cooled us down).

The participants were fabulous and showed their tenacity as they struggled upstairs and downstairs, along the soft sand and bush tracks. They should be very proud of their achievement.

I would like to thank Mr O'Rourke for coming along for the walk with the participants and myself.

Thank you to all involved and well done Year 9 students; Olivia B, Max B, Ericalyn F, Lani F, Bronte M, Ben H, Tahlia H, Jacqueline H, Charley K, Taisha M, Tyger-May R, Caitlin R, Oliver R, Lana S, Isobel S and Aimilee S.



Ms Davidson  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

# YEAR 10 ILLUMINATE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

In Week 7 of this term, our wonderful Year 10 students, completed the Illuminate Business Challenge over the course of the week. Students worked in teams of 7 or 8 and came up with impressive and creative business ideas to help solve the youth unemployment problem on the Central Coast. They essentially put together a business plan over the course of the week including, but not limited to, a statement of establishment costs, a budgeted profit and loss statement and a marketing package.

Our student pitch video to stakeholders and trade displays were simply outstanding. We are so incredibly proud of our students meeting their tight deadlines through their mature collaboration and teamwork throughout the week, all the while learning about business.

A big thank-you to our facilitators at Illuminate Education, our wonderful Careers Adviser, Ms Bates and to the supervising teachers, Mr O'Rourke, Ms Surya, Ms Bruce, Mr Spence, Mr Staniford and Mr Parker who helped make the week so incredibly successful. Finally, and most importantly, congratulations to our Year 10 students who completed the challenge and to all of our fabulous award winners.

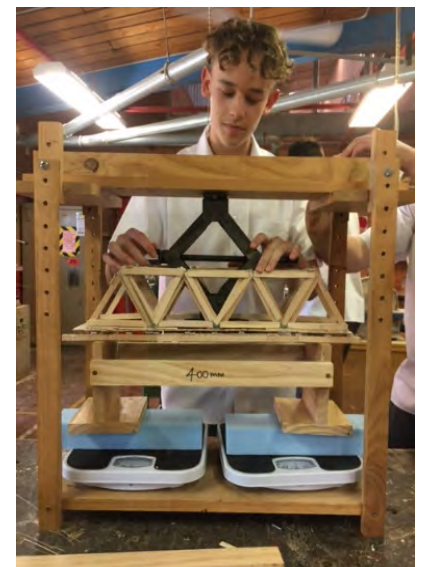


Ms Massie  
Teacher (HSIE)

# ENGINEERING STUDIES

## Yr 8 Pinball Mania!

Year 8 Engineering students have had a lot of fun making pinball machine prototypes. Students have built their frames and then worked to personalise their playfields.



## HSC Bridge Construction and Destruction!

After an intense period of bridge building, the Year 11 Engineering Studies students had the opportunity to test their bridges for failure. All bridges held their own weight and at least 20kg, with Matt's bridge only cracking under the massive load of 100kg. An outstanding effort, but not the only measure of success, as the students were also looking at bridge efficiency, a ratio of their bridge's mass to the load it could carry. As a credit to Matt's ingenuity and engineering skills, he managed to take out this honour as well, with Luke and Tom coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



Mrs Turner  
Head Teacher (TAS)

## **WIN (Writing Improvement Now) Term 4 Winners!**

Congratulations to **Lauren G** of Year 10 who was announced as our WIN Writer of the Year at our presentation day awards. Lauren was nominated throughout the year several times by her teachers from a range of subjects. Her written submissions have consistently been outstanding, and she was well deserving of prestigious award.

Throughout Term 4 teachers have been collecting samples of student writing produced in their classrooms. Teachers were then required to nominate their best writers for the WIN competition. These entries were judged across year groups and courses in the junior school. The entries were judged on their cohesion, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, grammar and how well they addressed the task. After a long judging process the Term 4 winners were decided. They are as follows:

**Year 7 – Abigail G - English**

**Year 8 – Lily P - Japanese**

**Year 9 – Chris H - PDHPE**

**Year 10 – Charlie S- History**

A short excerpt from each student text reveals the high quality of writing produced by each student.

**Year 7 - Abigail G - English**

*Hello ladies and gentlemen, my name is Abigail, and I will be your Cabin Supervisor for your flight to Tokyo on Paper Plan Airlines. Our captain for today's flight is Captain Robert Connelly, who will fly us over bullying and relationships, two popular tourist destinations. Please prepare to take off on an emotional, thrilling and also saddening flight.*

*If you could please pick up your safety booklet, I will give you a detailed course through Jack and Dylan's relationship. The first graph shows the event of Dylan coming home only to find his father asleep on the couch after watching old sporting recaps.*

**Year 8 – Lily P - Japanese**

*She crawls around her room, looking for the small teddy bear she so dearly missed. She trampled over toys, books, blankets and pillows to no avail. Her small feet took her to the doorway of the room. Her hand clasps around the handle, pulling it down and pushing as hard as she could, like she had seen people do before. The door swings on its hinges, creaking loudly. She walks out onto the landing, trampling over the carpet, down the stairs. She takes them slowly, one at a time before running to the playroom. She brings all the toys out, the soft toys, the hard toys, the blankets. Her hands search frantically as a sob rises in her throat. She starts panicking and tears brim in her eyes. A loud wail fills the house as the girl stumbles over the toys, tripping and falling. Her cries become louder as the pain increases.*

**Year 9 – Chris H - PDHPE**

*For Yosef to build his resilience, there are a number of things he could do. For example, he could go to therapy where he could talk about his life and get counselling regarding what to do from here. Another option would be contacting old friends. Building a solid network with which to stand on is a good idea as it means that if he's ever at a low point, he has people to talk to, helping build up his resilience.*

**Year 10 – Charlie S - History**

*Eddie Koiki Mabo made ground-breaking steps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their rights to their land and he was one of the men responsible for the 1992 'Mabo Decision' in the High Court of Australia. This decision led to the creation of the Native Title Act of 1993, which allowed for Indigenous peoples to claim their own traditional lands or at least part of them, back from the government. From Mabo's home, the Islands of Mer (or as it is more commonly known, the Murray Islands) he began this 10 year long war over land rights. This was fought by Mabo and a few other men from Mer.*

Mrs Evans  
Head Teacher (HSIE)

## SUPPORT UNIT

It's been quite the busy term in the Support Unit, from Ten Pin Bowling to thank you BBQ's and even our own vegetable garden. We appreciate all the support we receive from our valued community members (Terrigal Bowling Club, SPAR supermarket) and know that the amazing support unit at Terrigal High School would not run as smoothly, without the many important people around us. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and can't wait to see what 2021 has installed for us.



Mr Spence  
Teacher (Support Unit)

## COAST SHELTER

The SRC have been busy running our annual Christmas appeal for Coast Shelter from weeks 7-10 to spread some much needed Christmas cheer to those doing it really tough on the Central Coast.

This year each roll call class was assigned a person with requested items to contribute towards. Students could participate in one of two ways, by contributing to the gift for that person or by bringing in non-perishable food items to go into hampers. Final collections will take place on Monday Week 10 and items delivered to Coast Shelter on the Tuesday.



Thank you to all students, staff and families who have assisted with contributions, your generosity is most appreciated. There is still time to donate if you wish. Merry Christmas from the THS SRC.



Ms Rankin  
SRC Coordinator