

# PRINCIPALS NEWS

TERM 1 WEEK 5



Last week we held our first whole school sporting carnival down at Wollondilly Leisure centre for our annual swimming carnival. What a great way to start the year with a whole school event which created a great atmosphere last Tuesday. Well done to all the students for their behaviour on the day making it a very very memorable experience in particular for our year seven cohort attending their first high school swimming carnival.

A big thank you to our PDHPE staff for organising a great day with events not only for competitors but for those who wanted to get in and have a bit of a splash in the participation races. It was pleasing to hear that it was a bigger turnout than what we've had in recent years and I look forward to building the number of the students attending these events over the coming years. I would also like to thank our parents who were able to make it down to the carnival and again I look forward to hopefully having more attend our athletics carnival later on in the year.

Congratulations to all of our competitors who made it through to the zone swimming carnival which was then held on Friday of last week. 39 students represented Picton High School at this carnival. Out of the 99 events, 34 of those resulted in Picton High placing first, 15 placing second and 22 placing third. With this result we broke 2 records, received 3 age champions, and finished second on the points tally in the Macarthur Zone region. Well done to all.

This week coming we have a number of our girls in action across the sporting arena. I would like to wish the open girls cricket team the best of luck in their first game for the year tomorrow along with Ivy White of Year 11 who will be representing us, the zone and the region in the NSW combined High School Baseball Championship.

We have had a number of improvements made to the physical learning environments at our school over the past 12 months. I'm pleased to let you know that we've held talks for the commencement of the next stage to more classroom spaces enclosed. This is really exciting as the classrooms that were enclosed over the summer break have had a huge impact on the learning environment already in 2025. We are also in the planning stages for a new covered outdoor learning area (COLA) adjacent to our back oval to provide more shade and shelter for our students.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Mon 3/3/25

Yr 7 Enrichment – Writing and Investigating Excursion  
Open Girls Cricket

Bowen Murray and Peter Tzortzis attending SSW Open boys basketball trials

### Wed 5/3/25

Yr 7 Meet the Teacher BBQ 4-5:30pm

P&C meeting 5:30pm @ PHS

Yr 9 Outdoor Education – Glenrock Reserve

### Thurs 6/3/25

Yr 10 Police and Justice Museum visit



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Two of our Year 11 visual arts students are attending the prestigious Dobell Drawing School. The workshops are located within the National Art School in Sydney and provide professional tuition on a range of drawing topics. Students attend during term break over four days with all tuition fees covered by the Dobell Drawing Foundation. Congratulations to Tahlia Hendricks and Torah Daly for their hard work in this subject.

## What's happening in the classroom?

Please find some information from our HT Mathematics, Mr Bret Metcalfe

Mathematics is a vital subject that provides the foundation for many aspects of daily life and future learning

Over many years, I have been asked many times from students and parents “What can I do at home to improve?”

There is no one model fits all, but a range of ideas that can work.

Whether in school or at home, there are effective strategies to improve understanding and skills in mathematics. Here are some helpful tips:

### 1. Practice Regularly

Consistent practice is key to mastering maths. Set aside time each day to work on maths problems. Use worksheets, online exercises, or revision books to reinforce what the students have learned in class.

### 2. Understand the Concepts

Rather than just memorising formulas, focus on understanding the underlying concepts. Ask how and why certain methods work. This deeper understanding will make it easier to tackle different types of problems.

### 3. Use Real-Life Applications

Find ways to apply maths in everyday life. Whether it's budgeting for groceries, measuring ingredients for a recipe, or planning a trip, using maths in real situations can make the subject more relatable and engaging.

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#### 4. Utilise Online Resources

Take advantage of the wealth of educational resources available online. Websites, apps, and videos can provide additional explanations and practice problems. Platforms like Khan Academy and YouTube offer valuable tutorials on various maths topics.

#### 5. Work with Peers

Study groups can be an effective way to learn. Discussing problems with classmates can provide new insights and help clarify concepts. Teaching each other can also reinforce your own understanding.

#### 6. Seek Help When Needed

Don't hesitate to ask for help if you're struggling. Teachers, tutors, or family members can provide guidance and support. Getting help early can prevent confusion and build confidence.

#### 7. Stay Positive and Patient

Maths can be challenging, and it's normal to encounter difficulties. Maintain a positive attitude and be patient with yourself. Celebrate small achievements to keep motivation high.

#### 8. Set Goals

Set specific, achievable goals for your maths learning. Whether it's mastering a particular topic or improving your test scores, having clear goals can help you stay focused and motivated.

#### 9. Explore Different Learning Styles

Everyone learns differently. Experiment with various methods of learning, such as visual aids, hands-on activities, or auditory resources. Finding what works best for you can enhance your understanding.

#### 10. Review Regularly

Regularly revisit topics learned to reinforce your memory. This can help prevent forgetting important concepts and keep your skills sharp.

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Education

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To help with this, here is a breakdown of every year group and what we are doing this term:

YEAR 7: Integers (negative and positive numbers), Length and Area

YEAR 8: Pythagoras' Theorem, Algebra and Equations, Finance

YEAR 9: (Core and Path): Algebra, Finance, Area and Surface Area 1

YEAR 10 (Core and Path): Algebra, Area and Surface Area 2

YEAR 11 Standard: Earning Money, Equations, Perimeter Area and Volume.

YEAR 11 Advanced: Algebra, Functions and Trigonometry

YEAR 11 Extension 1: Combinatorics and Permutations, Functions

YEAR 12 Standard 1 and Standard 2: Bivariate data, Financial Mathematics

YEAR 12 Advanced: Bivariate Data, Sequences and Series, Further Calculus

YEAR 12 Extension 1: Vectors, Proof, Calculus

YEAR 12 Extension 2: Complex Numbers and Proof

Maths mind problem of the week (for students and parents)

At Mad Merv's clothing store, Mad Merv has a strange way of pricing items of clothing

a tie cost \$15

a shirt costs \$25

socks \$25

trousers \$40

How much will underwear cost?

## THE WEEK AHEAD

MON 3/3/25

YR 7 ENRICHMENT - WRITING AND INVESTIGATING EXCURSION

OPEN GIRLS CRICKET

BOWEN MURRAY AND PETER TZORTZIS ATTENDING SSW OPEN BOYS BASKETBALL TRIALS

WED 5/3/25

YR 7 MEET THE TEACHER BBQ 4-5:30PM

P&C MEETING 5:30PM @ PHS

YR 9 OUTDOOR EDUCATION - GLENROCK RESERVE

THURS 6/3/25

YR 10 POLICE AND JUSTICE MUSEUM VISIT



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