

# PICTON HIGH SCHOOL

# PRINCIPALS NEWS

## TERM 3 WEEK 3



HOPEFULLY, YOU ALL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAY WARM AND DRY OVER THE LAST WEEK WITH THE COLD AND WET WEATHER. IT WAS ANOTHER BIG WEEK FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF AT PICTON HIGH. OUR MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT STUDENTS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE WOLLONDILLY PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL WITH THREE SHOWS OVER TWO DAYS. IF YOU WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ATTEND AND ENJOY THE TALENT ON SHOW ACROSS A NUMBER OF PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS, YOU WOULD OF EXPERIENCED OUR DEDICATED ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC STUDENTS RUNNING THE SHOW. WORKING HARD, THEY WERE ABLE TO IRON OUT SOME OF THE TECH ISSUES IN THE MATINEE PERFORMANCE ON WEDNESDAY AND THEN SHOWCASE THEIR EXPERTISE IN THE NIGHT-TIME SHOWS OVER WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS. WELL DONE TO OUR STUDENTS AND MR MADERN AND MR KEEN FOR THE COUNTLESS HOURS INVOLVED. CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE PERFORMANCES OVER THE 3 SHOWS FROM PICTON HIGH WHICH INCLUDED SINGING, DANCING, BAND PERFORMANCE AND A RANGE OF MUSICAL TALENT.

SUBJECT SELECTION FOR 2026 HAS BEGUN. LAST WEEK, YEAR 10 STUDENTS ROTATED AROUND TASTER SESSIONS TO GATHER INFORMATION IN PREPARATION FOR YEAR 11. THEY THEN SELECTED SUBJECTS IN A "MOCK SELECTION" TO GIVE US A GOOD IDEA ON THE SUBJECTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO STUDY. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO CREATE AN EVEN SPREAD OF SUBJECTS FOR STUDENTS TO SELECT FROM IN THE COMING WEEKS. PARENTS OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO OUR SUBJECT SELECTION EVENING ON TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, WEEK 6 STARTING AT 5:30PM IN THE HALL.

IN THE COMING WEEKS YEAR 10 STUDENTS WILL BE INVOLVED IN A WELLBEING PROGRAM CALLED "WALK THE TALK". THIS PROGRAM IS AIMED AT PREVENTING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE THROUGH CONTEXTUAL LEARNING, RE-ENFORCED WITH CONCRETE ACTIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THESE PROGRAMS CAN CAUSE DISTRESS FOR SOME AND IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD ATTENDING PLEASE CONTACT THE FRONT OFFICE AND REQUEST TO SPEAK TO OUR WELLBEING TEAM WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION.

WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF OUR STUDENTS OUT AND ABOUT REPRESENTING OUR SCHOOL IN THE PAST MONTH. A NUMBER OF THESE HAVE BEEN ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE. I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE MADDISON MCCONACHY WHO DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS REPRESENTED PICTON HIGH AT THE STATE INTERSCHOOLS AT SIEC (SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE) FOR SHOW JUMPING. MADDIE AND HER PONY LOLLIE QUALIFIED TO COMPETE IN BOTH THE 80CM AND 90CM CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE THEY HAD TO DO ONE ROUND OF SHOWJUMPING AT EACH HEIGHT FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS. THEY REPRESENTED THE SCHOOL AT A HIGH LEVEL AND BROUGHT HOME MULTIPLE RIBBONS AND GREAT RESULTS. THEY FINISHED IN 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE OVERALL IN THE 80CM AND EQUAL 9<sup>TH</sup> OVERALL IN THE 90CM FROM HUGE CLASSES. WE HOPE SHE IS DOING WELL THIS WEEKEND IN GUNNDAH AT THE STATE SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS. WELL DONE, MADDIE.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO IVY WHITE WHO RECENTLY COMPETED AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BASEBALL FOR ALL (BFA) NATIONALS—THE LARGEST GIRLS-ONLY BASEBALL TOURNAMENT IN NORTH AMERICA. HELD AT THE GOLDEN EAGLE SPORTS COMPLEX IN SPARKS, NEVADA, THIS EVENT BRINGS TOGETHER TALENTED FEMALE PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS AND PASSION FOR THE GAME. SINCE 2015, BFA NATIONALS HAS WELCOMED TEAMS FROM THE U.S., CANADA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, MEXICO, SOUTH KOREA, AND MORE, OFFERING A TRULY GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF GIRLS' BASEBALL. IVY'S TEAM WAS PROUDLY REPRESENTED BY PLAYERS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA. DESPITE NEVER HAVING PLAYED TOGETHER AS A TEAM—AND OFTEN HAVING FACED OFF AS OPPONENTS IN THE PAST—THEY UNITED WITH INCREDIBLE TEAMWORK AND DETERMINATION TO BRING HOME THE BRONZE MEDAL IN THE U16 MAJORS DIVISION. WELL DONE, IVY.

IT IS AN EXCITING WEEK AHEAD FOR US AT PICTON HIGH. WE ARE CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK WITH THE 2025 THEME "THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION AND LEGACY. STARTING OFF WITH A WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN THE MORNING WHICH WILL BE LED BY OUR JUNIOR AECG STUDENTS WE WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR FROM SPECIAL GUESTS AROUND WHAT THIS YEAR'S THEME MEANS TO THEM. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MORNING TEA FOR ALL OF OUR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AND PARENTS. OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEK THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF EVENTS OCCURRING WITH THE ANNUAL PICTON HIGH VS ORAN PARK HIGH NAIDOC RUGBY LEAGUE CAP WRAPPING UP THE WEEK. THANK YOU TO OUR ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEAM FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK PLANNING AND ORGANISING FOR A SIGNIFICANT WEEK AHEAD.

OUR STUDENT LEADERS WILL AGAIN BE IN ACTION TOMORROW LEADING A DAY OF CHALLENGE AND CURIOSITY WITH OUR FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS. OUR STUDENTS WILL BE WORKING WITH THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNTERPARTS IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY. WE WILL ALSO BE WELCOMING OUR RELIEVING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR CHAD BLISS, REL DIRECTOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, MARGARET MULCAHY AND WOLLONDILLY MP MRS JUDITH HANNAN. WELL DONE TO THE SRC FOR THEIR ORGANISATION OF ANOTHER VALUABLE EVENT.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HSIE CLASSROOMS?

THIS TERM IN HSIE, STUDENTS ACROSS ALL YEAR LEVELS ARE ENGAGING IN RICH AND DYNAMIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT CONNECT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

- IN YEAR 7, STUDENTS ARE DEVELOPING THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL THINKING AS THEY EXPLORE LANDSCAPES AND LANDFORMS, GAINING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW NATURAL PROCESSES AND HUMAN ACTIVITY SHAPE OUR WORLD.
- YEAR 8 ARE STEPPING BACK IN TIME TO UNCOVER THE FASCINATING WORLD OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE, DELVING INTO CASTLES, KNIGHTS, AND THE COMPLEX SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF THE MIDDLE AGES.
- YEAR 9 HISTORY STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING THE TERM WITH A FOCUS ON CHANGE MAKERS—INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED HISTORY—BEFORE MOVING ON TO EXPLORE AUSTRALIA'S SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN WORLD WAR I. MEANWHILE, YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS ARE STUDYING SUSTAINABLE BIOMES, EXAMINING HOW WE INTERACT WITH AND IMPACT DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS AROUND THE GLOBE.
- IN YEAR 10 HISTORY, STUDENTS ARE EXAMINING THE MAJOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD SINCE 1945, FOLLOWED BY A CLOSER LOOK AT CHANGING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE US CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY IS TACKLING THE VITAL TOPIC OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND MANAGEMENT, CONSIDERING REAL-WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS.
- ACROSS OUR ELECTIVE AND SENIOR CLASSES, STUDENTS ARE ENGAGED IN A DIVERSE RANGE OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES, DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

HSIE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND THEM AND THEIR PLACE IN IT. WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE LEARNING JOURNEY AHEAD!

# THE WEEK AHEAD

## MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

- WOLLONDILLY YOUNG LEADERS FORUM
- NAIDOC MORNING TEA

## TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

- SSW ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP
- U16S FUTSAL BOYS AND GIRLS
- NAIDOC ON COUNTRY

## WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

- SSW ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP
- YEAR 8 IBL TARONGA ZOO EXCURSION
- YEAR 9 OUTDOOR EDUCATION MERMAID POOLS HIKE (MS MCPHEE)
- YR 9 OUTDOOR EDUCATION GLENROCK RESERVE HIKE (MS LINDSAY)
- YR 11 & 12 SPORTS COACHING – PRIMARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

## THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

- NAIDOC WEEK MURAL
- YR 11 & 12 SPORTS COACHING – PRIMARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

## FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

- NAIDOC CUP – RUGBY LEAGUE MATCH



LUKE FARTHING PRINCIPAL



Education