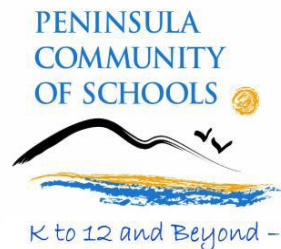


# Peninsula Community of Schools



**MACQUARIE**  
University

*Term 3, 2016*

## **Olympic Swimmer Visits Kindergarten at Mona Vale Public School**

My name is Milla Richards and my mum was an Olympic swimmer at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Back then she was 17 years old and her name was Kasey Giteau. Mum visited my class to talk about her freestyle swimming events. My friends had lots of questions about healthy food, her special Olympic uniforms and her swim school, Little Sharkies. My mum achieved her dream of representing Australia at the Olympic Games. I am very proud of my mum.



**Kasey Giteau at the 2000 Olympics**

## **Pittwater High School**

### **Accelerated Aboriginal Studies Major Works - A Reneman Year 11**

Earlier this year, the accelerated Aboriginal Studies Class completed their HSC Major Works. What was unique about these major works, is that it allowed individuals to explore, research and engage with often personal topics entirely of their own choice as long as it explored a syllabus area.. This opportunity allowed us as students to engross ourselves with our learning as we undertook one of the most unique and extremely rewarding experiences of our entire lives.

Each and every individual that completed this project amazed me and those around me with just how exceptional their understanding of their chosen topic developed over time. Some of the chosen topics included the gap in Indigenous employment, the significance of Indigenous language, the effects and treatment of Indigenous children in foster care, the importance of dreaming in appreciating Indigenous art, Indigenous cancer treatment and the treatment of Aboriginal veterans.

Each of these pieces were presented so differently, some included a pop-up Indigenous art exhibition, others included teaching a class and short films whereas others included brochures and books. In addition to completing this project Madison Magno and I were then granted the truly unique opportunity to present our pieces to the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, a group of inspiring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of the local Gurringai area that are passionate, motivated and actively engaged with improving Aboriginal education. This opportunity was extremely rewarding for the both of us as it allowed us to truly reflect upon just how far we had come throughout the journey of completing these pieces, alongside granting us the opportunity to hear real and raw feedback to our projects.

I personally completed a piece that explored my own family heritage and the experiences and effects it has had upon each and every one of my Indigenous family members in their decision of whether or whether not to identify. This opportunity was extremely emotional, rewarding and insightful for me personally as it really did allow me the opportunity to uncover and deconstruct something extremely personal and relevant. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity I was granted to complete this piece and for the never-ending support and help that was supplied to me by my teacher Mrs Behringer and the broader school community.



*A Reneman "Exploring my Family History"*



*Madison Magno "Gamilaraay and Yuwalaanaay Language Lesson Plans"*



**WHY ARE THERE MORE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE?**

**Indigenous Australians in the Australian Defence Force BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SERVICE...**



*Emily Thomas "Indigenous Australians in the ADF"*

# Choosing to Identify



Discovering one's Aboriginality is something that impacts individuals in a variety of different ways. It can deeply affect our outlooks and perceptions of others and most importantly ourselves. In the battle of choosing to openly identify with this heritage comes a variety of different obstacles and challenges. For some of us, the experiences of indifferent treatment and resentment are simply not worth the trouble whereas for others, lucky enough to live free of such perceptions, lies a pathway open to boundless opportunities.

There are a number of factors associated along the journey to identification and a number of aspects that can determine our final decision. For some of us, we, on a very personal level are able to come to terms with our Aboriginality and so forth make the decision to accept it amorously every day, however in saying that, not all who choose to identify to themselves feel comfortable with openly identifying to others.

A factor which I personally feel for a lot of people truly is a leading an often unconscious contributor as to why they don't openly and comfortably choose to identify with their heritage is the concept of guilt, a guilt that comes alongside the process of such a discovery and can have an unknowingly huge effect. Guilt can stem from a lot of different places and eat away at us in a variety of ways. Guilt can be associated for never having known where you truly come from, and can stem from a lack of knowledge about your past alongside having your heritage hidden away like it's a poisonous secret that will ruin your life. Guilt isn't really discussed an awful lot, but guilt is something that silently kills the Aboriginal dream for Australians young and old every

day. Guilt is that feeling you get deep beneath your skin that prevents you from doing the things you deem worthwhile and for a lot of people, guilt can be the deciding factor when making the decision to openly identify as being Aboriginal.

Another huge factor in the decision of identification, is the risk of racial prejudice and discrimination. A risk that you will be alienated or treated indifferently as a result of the years of racial stereotyping that has cyclically been inbuilt into the foundation of our society. This includes but isn't limited to the portrayal of Aboriginal people as 'drunken, petrol sniffing, drop kicks' that live on the dole.

Even for those who remain unaffected by guilt there is still a conscious decision to make every day as to whether or not they should openly identify with their cultural heritage. The predominate factor being a fear of not just the unknown but of change and discrimination. It is human nature to be intimidated of change and it is often difficult for individuals to comfortably live a life that has no hope of returning to its previous state as it is a daunting process. I think for many people, when choosing to openly identify with their Aboriginality, it is the fear itself that stops them.

There is a lot of factors that influence and impact our decision to identify with our Aboriginal ancestry and every one person is different. Every individual wants different things and every one person is influenced in different ways but at the end of the day no one way is right or wrong.



## Narrabeen Lakes Public School

### Tournament of Minds

Narrabeen Lakes Public school took part in the annual Tournament of Minds competition held at Roseville College on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Seven talented students from Stage 2 competed against various other schools in the Sydney North division. J. Everett, F. Brown, M. Jones, M. Mountseer, D. Barker, M. Burns and K. Shalopa worked together to devise a solution to the long term Language Literature Challenge.



Tournament of Minds is a creative problem solving program designed for students to work collaboratively within a team in areas of Language Literature, Social Science, Maths Engineering and Science and Technology. The inquiry-based program aims to enhance student potential by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a competitive environment.

Students enjoyed working on their long-term challenge over the past 6 weeks and couldn't wait for the opportunity to present their solution to a panel of judges on Tournament Day. The Narrabeen Lakes team presented a well-rehearsed, humorous play involving four characters from various genres of literature. The team acquitted themselves very well, having the audience in stitches with their character representation. Students also participated in a short spontaneous challenge on the day that requires rapid interchange of ideas, the ability to think creatively and well developed group cooperation skills.

Overall the program was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop a broad range of skills, learn how to work collaboratively as a team and most importantly, have fun!

### Book Week

To celebrate Book Week, Narrabeen Lakes Public School participated in a Picnic, Book Fair and a Book Character Parade. All the children came dressed as their favourite character from a Premier Reading Challenge Book and shared a picnic with their families in the playground.



The parents and children were then able to visit the library to donate a good quality book to the school library. After



the picnic lunch the parents stayed and watched the students and teachers parade their character costumes around the playground. What a great day it was and what a fantastic way to recognise good quality literature.

## Barrenjoey High School Year 5 Sports Spectacular



Barrenjoey hosted a Year 5 Sports Spectacular for Bilgola Plateau and Avalon Beach Public Schools. The Year 10 PASS Class were responsible for running the sporting events throughout the day and a group of 32 Year 7 Students acted as mentors to the Year 5 Students throughout the day.

By all accounts, the Year 5 kids had a ball playing games like volleyball, dodgeball, touch football, basketball, kick tennis, newcombe ball, hockey and netball.

The PDHPE, English and Maths Staff also met with the Primary Staff to discuss transition strategies throughout the day. Here are some photos to show you how much the students enjoyed their day.



## Narrabeen North – The Creative Arts in Action

Narrabeen North Public School's strength in delivering extensive Creative Arts programs has been highlighted this term, particularly in dance and choir. Involving 630 students, from Kindergarten to Year 6, all have enjoyed the opportunity to perform for peers, parents and community members.

### Get Down to Motown

Recently all students performed in our annual dance concert. The theme for this year was 'Get Down to Motown' and all 25 class performances were outstanding! Parents and the community were invited to matinee and evening concerts where their children danced to great hits from the Motown era.

This annual concert is a showcase of the weekly dance lessons that all students in K-6 participate in with specialist dance teachers.



### Music Festival

Committed and talented students from NNPS performed at the PCS Music Festival 'Kidtacular' concert. Our Kindergarten dance group performed an action packed dance. These super heroes put in a super human effort in preparation for this performance.

Our Year 2 students also sang many songs throughout the music festival as part of the PCS choral ensemble. The piece from Matilda was a stand out.



### Town Hall Choir

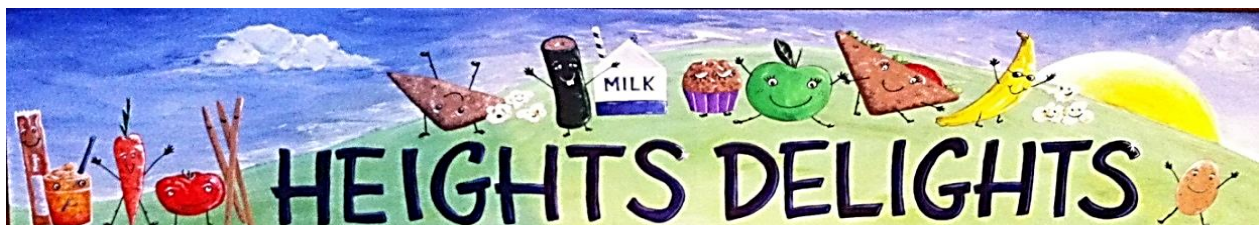
Our choir group had been rehearsing regularly in preparation for their performance in the Arts Alive Choral Concert. These students gave an outstanding performance as part of a mass choir which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large Town Hall audience.

It has been a busy term for NNPS students showcasing their commitment and outstanding skills in the creative arts – well done to all!

## Live Life Well @ Elanora Heights Public School

**Bringing community and the classroom together through healthy living initiatives.**

Healthy eating initiatives have been introduced and embraced at the Elanora Public School Heights Delights canteen. It is all part of our endeavour to educate our children about healthy eating habits and to Live Life Well @ school. Our new canteen name 'Heights Delights' was created by our school community. The new enticing canteen sign was designed by one of our own creative parents.



We have a Live Life Well @ school volunteer parent group that meets regularly to discuss and introduce creative and fun ways to support physical activity and healthy eating.

In conjunction with our daily healthy and fresh menu available at the canteen, we have other incentives to promote healthy eating for our children:

We are issuing 'loyalty cards' in the canteen, where students collect stickers by purchasing fruit or vegetables. They will then get a free frozen fruit pop once they have collected 10 stickers.

Rainbow fruito/vego is our daily 'fruit break' time. Our colour theme is changed regularly to encourage children to try a variety of fruits and vegetables that they may not normally eat. Last week the colour was green. We build on this interest for class activities in writing and maths. Year 2 classes counted the fruit and vegetables brought in, recorded it as a table then created a graph to analyse.

K-2 are creating edible art in week 10, the theme is 'Eat a Rainbow'. This is a fun opportunity for the children to create delicious and healthy works of art and then eat them!

Year 6 Heights Delights Helpers: Year 6 students have the privilege of working in the canteen over recess or lunch. All workers must do an induction course to learn how to present themselves in the work place, how to handle food and money, and general food hygiene. The skills our year 6 students gain endorse our school motto of Respect Achievement and Responsibility.



At our recent P&C meeting we had the pleasure of having guest speaker Eve Clark, Health Promotion Officer, speak to our school community. Eve is responsible for the Livelifewell@school on the northern beaches. Ms Clark spoke about children's health, guidelines and good healthy eating ideas in other schools.

## Wheeler Heights Public School

### Drone Visit for Science Week

This term the students were very fortunate to see a drone demonstration as part of Science Week: Drones, Droids and Robots. Charles B (2E) led a very informative question and answer session with his dad Ben which taught us about drones, how they are powered and their many uses; from pizza delivery to being used in the military.



The whole school then ventured to the oval. First Charles and his dad showed us some tricks with their drone. Then Mauricio from Property Meter demonstrated his commercial drone. The students lined up in their classes to make the letters W H and eagerly watched as the drone went higher and higher and higher and higher and higher. (Yes it really did keep going!). The drone can go up to 500 metres high which is truly impressive to witness. In fact I'm sure this sight made many students start thinking of birthday or Christmas presents starting with the letter d.

Thank you to Mr Radom for helping to plan this event and special thanks to Ben and Mauricio for donating your time. It was a great exhibition of what drones are and how they can be used. Also special thanks to Charles for all your hard work in preparing your speech.  
Miss Earl  
Classroom Teacher



### **Wheeler Heights Public School Ballroom Dancing Spectacular**

What a great night was had by all on Tuesday 6 September. With 25 schools competing on the night, our students looked great and fine representatives of Wheeler Heights. Firstly, a big thank you to the parents for coming along to support and drop kids home afterwards. A special thanks to those that helped with costumes, make-up and hairstyles. The 14 couples did a fantastic job on the dance floor and were a credit to Wheeler Heights and Yuuka's hard work preparing them! It was a very successful night with all our selected couples (Cha Cha - Charley G & Frances G; Salsa - Adam P & Sophie W; Tango – Jago B & Gabi W; Jive - Fynn B & Charlotte G) making the semi-finals, an awesome achievement! Jago and Gabi danced again in the final and came in 8th overall in the Tango. Fynn and Charlotte also made the final and achieved a podium finish in 2nd overall in the Jive! A brilliant result for them and the school!



### **Book Week at Wheeler Heights Public School in 2016**

This term the school celebrated book week with a fantastic book parade. Have a look at the photos on the following page to see some of the great characters the students dressed as. As you can see the teachers enjoyed dressing up just as much as the students!

Thank you to all the parents who donated a book. Your donation helps to ensure our library is well stocked and brimming with books your children love to read.





Special thanks to our wonderful librarian Mrs Bevan for all your amazing work in organising the parade and the book donations. Thanks also to all the parents who contributed cakes to sell on the day.

## Cromer Public School Celebrations

It has been a busy few weeks at our school with the students participating in a wide range of exciting learning experiences.

### Art Show

Last week was a very exciting week for art at Cromer!

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, we officially welcomed the community at the opening of our biannual Art Show, which showcased the outstanding artwork of over 730 students.

The school's biannual Art Show, a long standing tradition of our school, focuses on displaying the students' artwork from K-6. It's also centred on combined grade art pieces/murals, such as the Kindergarten mural and Year 6 mosaic, which are silently auctioned.



In Visual Arts, the students look at both art making and art appreciation. The students are given opportunities to express their ideas when making their art and are encouraged to form responses to their own and other people's artwork. Our Art program focuses on the joy of art, allowing students to explore a range of art elements, such as colour, shape, texture, and experiment with a variety of media and materials across a range of art areas. This includes drawing, painting, construction, collage, sculpture, clay work and printmaking.

Students attend forty minute Visual Arts classes once a week for the year. Lessons are held in the fully equipped Art Room. Student work is regularly displayed in the Art Room, classrooms and the display board in the Administration Office foyer. Work is also kept for display in the biannual Art Show in September, and of course, work is sent home. Our Visual Arts program is taught by our specialist Art Teacher, Mrs Lauren Peisley.



### **Fathers' Day Breakfast**

Last Friday, the students invited their father/carer/grandfather to school for an egg and bacon roll breakfast, and a visit to our busy classrooms. The morning was abuzz with plenty of visitors exploring our canteen, library and classrooms! The students were so excited to welcome their Dads and Father Figures to school for our Father's Day Breakfast. We had deliberately planned the event so Dads could continue onto work afterwards and the morning focused on fathers and their children. Dads, even in the pouring rain made their children's day.

It was obvious how thrilled the students were to have their Dad or Father Figure at school. They enjoyed having breakfast and reading to them in their classrooms. Teachers really enjoyed meeting many of the fathers as well.

Special thanks went to our Parents and Citizens Association who funded the event, to all the mothers and staff who helped to make the morning so successful and to our students who made their visitors feel so special.



## Fun and Learning at Newport

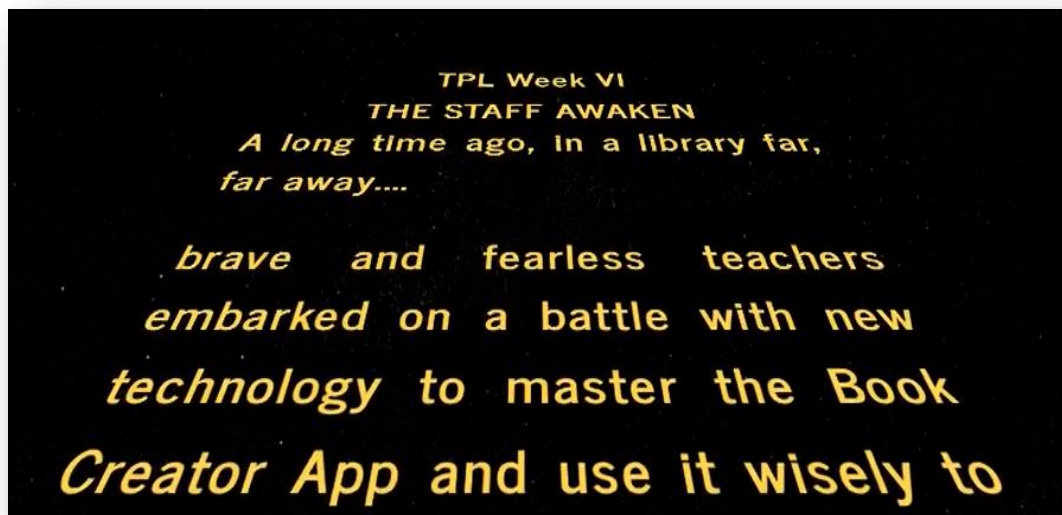
### Olympathon

Term 3 has been a term of fun, learning and performing arts at Newport. Our own K-6 Olympathon was an ambitious goal - some would say a stretch goal, which was realised with great success. The vibe on the day was incredible with our parent helpers leading each station up to the 20<sup>th</sup> round, with the same fun and enthusiasm as if it was the first! The students, staff and parents got into the spirit of the day, with laughter, encouragement, clapping, cheering and chanting being heard from the time of the opening ceremony through to the medal ceremony. After 20 x 4 minute rounds in events such as canoe slalom, equestrian, cycling, hurdles and hammer throw, it was an interesting finish with South Korea taking Gold, USA Silver and Belgium the Bronze medal. A gold medal for both Greg Moran who brought "the vision" and Lisa Brown who brought "the troops," as well as all of our parent helpers, students and staff who again, worked like a well-oiled machine and a great team, to bring the day to fruition. Congratulations!



**Let's get digital, digital, I wanna get digital, let's get into digital ... texts.**

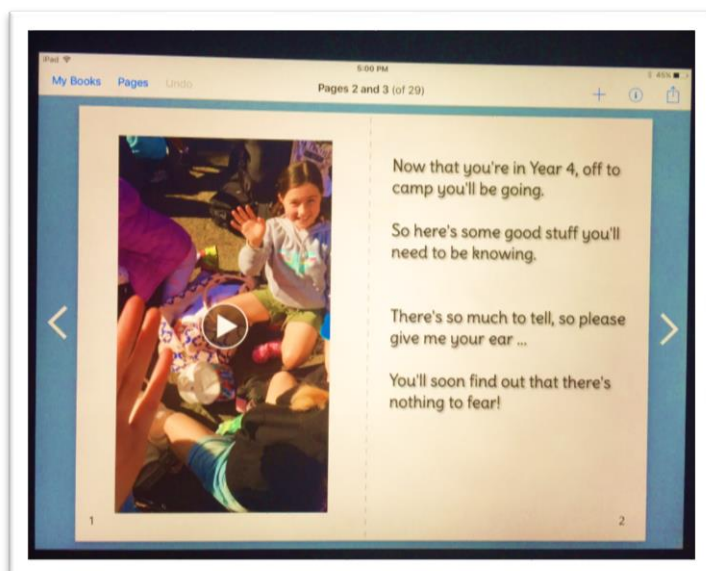
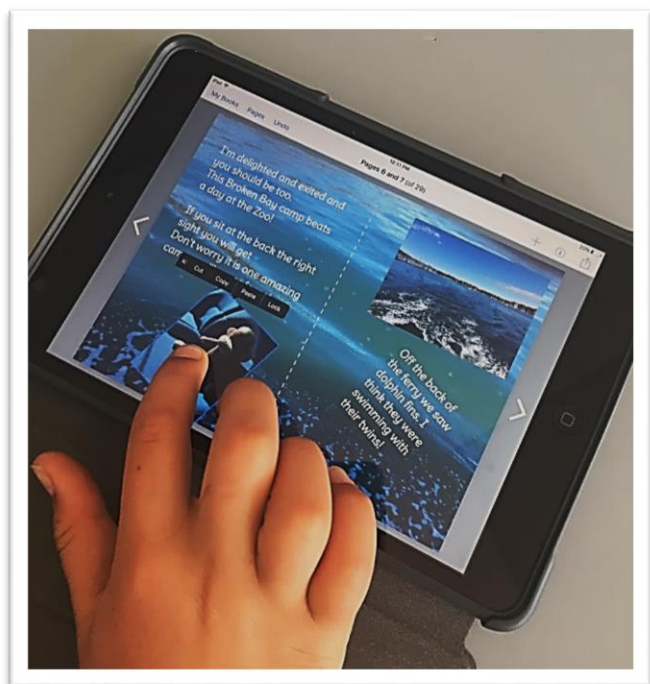
Newport Public School staff have been busy creating digital texts with their classes using new iPads generously provided by the P&C.



Term 3 TPL has focused on the English Curriculum's digital text requirement. The Literacy Committee revisited visual literacy and the Technology Committee introduced and helped staff become familiar with the Book Creator app, culminating in the creation of a digital, multimodal text by each class. Teachers paired-up to plan and team teach their digital text creation lessons. A sharing session has been planned for Week 10, where teachers will present their iBooks to colleagues.

From narratives and school social stories featuring classmates, to persuasive arguments and informative texts, students and teachers alike have immersed themselves in creating an iBook with their class. Students have been able to create or locate, select and insert and manipulate images, and write, format and position text - some classes have also experimented with adding sound effects, narration and embedding video!

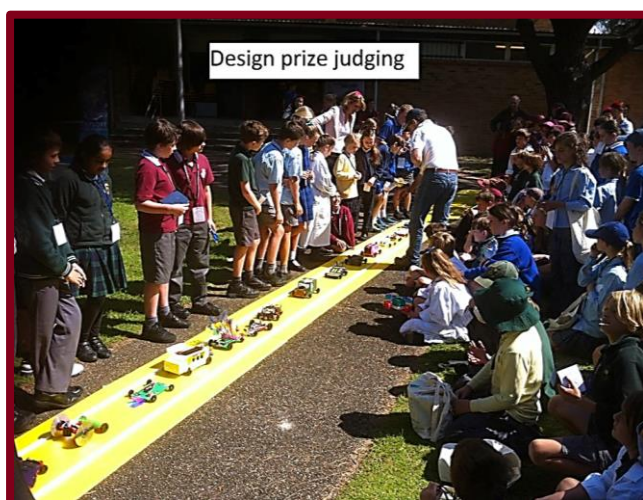
The versatility of the Book Creator app has allowed pictures, text, sound and video to combine to add deeper meaning to the stories and texts. Student engagement has been high and there is a real buzz around the school as students take ownership of their texts which are linked to units of work and have a real purpose and audience. Staff have already been thinking about what their next digital text might be about.



## Narrabeen Sports High School

### PCS Science Fair

Narrabeen Sports High School hosted the annual PCS Science Fair on Wednesday 7th September. Representatives from all 13 PCS schools attended the day which included an aerial robot display, workshops with Macquarie University students and great prizes and awards in the innovative design competition.





### PCS Music Festival

The cast of Oliver and our Dance Ensemble amazed an audience of thousands of primary and high school families at the Pittwater Community of Schools Music Festival. Raising \$2000 for Stewart House and putting on an awesome show, we are very proud of their efforts!



### CHS Champion

Taya R (Yr9) has made Narrabeen Sports High School History claiming GOLD in both the 100m and 200m Final at the NSW CHS Championships. Taya came 1st in the 100m Final with a PB of 12.63s and 1st in the 200m with another PB time of 25.73s. Congratulations Taya.



The Peninsula Community of schools would like to wish all staff and students a lovely Autumn break.

