



The Pathway

27 May 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope that this Newsletter finds all of our families feeling and appreciating the love of God in their lives.

It is a wonderful experience to be able to start each day knowing that God is present in our lives to give encouragement, love and support for all that we will encounter throughout the day ahead. We only have to ask God for his guidance and for the strength to greet all that is wonderful, and to meet all those events that may challenge us throughout the day.

Taking the time to pray together as a family, especially as we thank the Lord for all that is good in our lives and to ask for His blessings upon our friends and loved ones is a really positive evening activity.

Biggest Morning Tea

As I write this Newsletter, our school is preparing for the Biggest Morning Tea which raises funds for the Cancer Council. Mrs Colla and her team, have already done an amazing job in organising the event with significant donations already rolling in via online deposits. I am hoping to include photos from the event in this Newsletter. (Note: The total raised was over \$1700! Well done everyone!)

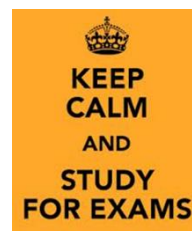


Shade Sail Project

Last year we were successful with our application for a grant to install shade sails above the playground equipment and the primary quadrangle. The planned project has now passed through Council so the installation can now proceed. We will now have a great deal of extra shaded play space available for student use.

Busy Times Ahead

The staff are currently focused on conducting assessments of student progress for the first Semester. Years 5-10 will be sitting for their half-yearly examinations over the next couple of weeks and so they should now well and truly, be involved in study each night. Success is directly linked to the degree of effort made. We want our school and its students to be recognised for achieving academic success to the best of their ability. This will only happen with focus, study, and the encouragement of family and the support of God. Year 11 examinations will not take place until mid-late Term 3.



Uniforms

Our students look fabulous when they wear their full school uniform with pride. Several students have already purchased the new blazers. They look really impressive and have already received many positive comments. Blazers can be purchased from the school office and will become a compulsory part of College dress from Term 3 onwards.



Lunch Orders

Don't forget that you can place orders for your child's lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week. Just use the online app. ("Flexischools"). Again, thanks go to Mrs Colla for organising this for the College. So far, we have received many positive comments from students and families.

Students Who Are Unwell

Our capacity to look after children who are unwell is extremely limited. We must also consider how easily illnesses can be passed on in a school setting.

Please keep your child at home if they are sick so as to help us manage the inevitable challenges of the cold and flu season. We have also been advised that our community may experience another round of COVID, so it is extremely important to monitor and test family members and then to keep them isolated for the duration of their illness.

Bible References

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." **John 14:13-14**

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer!" **Matthew 21:22**

"Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." **Matthew 7:7**

Year 11 Biology - Excursion

While everyone else was enjoying their extra day of holidays (student free day), 4 excited adventurers and 2 staff members made the long drive to Sackville North (near Windsor) to investigate the ecosystem as part of their studies in Biology. We went to Brewongle Environmental Education Centre to help us learn more about the interactions between the Spotted-Tailed Quoll and the Red Fox.

After a very long 7 ½ hour drive, we arrived safely at our destination. Within 30 minutes of arriving, we were introduced to some of the local wildlife, possibly trying to steal some of our dinner. We then enjoyed a few rounds of "Get Extinct!" (like Go Fish, but using extinct Australian animals).

After a semi-comfortable sleep on some camp stretchers, we were up and having breakfast being greeted by the melodious sounds of the local birds. Our resident bird expert, Reanna, was very helpful in helping to identify which birds were calling out to us.

The Principal of the Education Centre, Mr Body, very kindly donated a book to the School, which is full of beautiful photos from all around Australia. He also said that we were the furthest school to have visited.

After meeting our teacher for the day, Mr Cowell, we then got to work gathering information about the local ecosystem using various techniques. First, we gathered information about the abiotic (non-living) factors, including temperature, soil type, pH and humidity.



Analysing abiotic factors

After a quick morning tea break, we then looked closer at completing line transects. This is where you take note of vegetation along a set line.

Later in the day, we then separated into groups and examined nest boxes to see signs of use. This might have been fur, the beginning of a nest or even some leftover food or scat. We found brush-tail possums and ring-tail possums using these boxes to sleep during the day due to being nocturnal (awake at night).



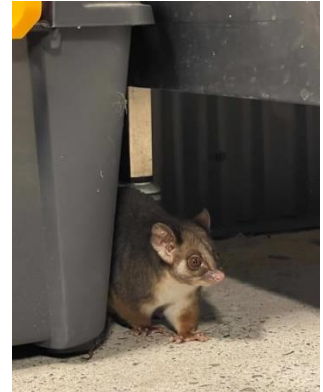
Year 11 Biology, overlooking the Hawkesbury River

After lunch, we then brainstormed how humans have impacted the local ecosystem and how we might be able to limit the impact that we have. We used this data to discuss whether the spotted-tailed quoll would be able to return to the Sackville North area.

The students really enjoyed the excursion and have learnt some valuable skills in Science and gathering primary data for their assessment task.



Measuring the height of trees for our line transect



A ring-tailed possum that came to visit



A frog found in the local pond