



The Scoop

The news that matters from the
Smith Street Unit

www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

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From the desk of Dale-Myree

Over the next 5 newsletters the staff at the Smith Street Unit will be taking over the introduction to tell you a little about themselves. I am delighted to introduce Chahla Maksour one of the most dynamic and committed teachers I have had the pleasure to work with.



I am an enthusiastic, punctual, reliable, resourceful, happy, and well-organised teacher. In the staffroom, I am also known to be the loud, bossy and noisy teacher. I love working at the Smith Street Unit because it is a smaller setting and I get to work closely with the students and their families.

Chahla Maksour

Illawarra Disability Options 2015 EXPO

On Wednesday the 5th of August, the Smith Street Unit staff and students attended the IDO expo and had the opportunity to talk to over 40 local services.



Congratulations to our Junior Class who entered the IDO Art competition and won the People's Choice Award. Blake Dugan represented the Junior Class at the IDO Exhibition and received the award.

The Smith Street Unit wishes to congratulate the IDO committee on an excellent informative expo and to thank **Merryl Bennett** for her continual support of the students and staff at the Smith Street Unit.

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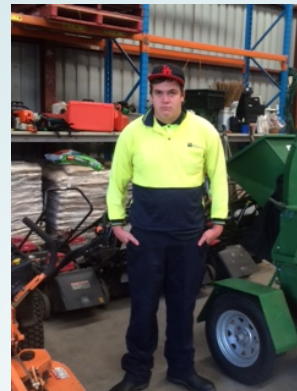


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Congratulations!!!!

James started his first day at IVS on Thursday the 13th of August. The unit wishes to thank Jeniveve Podmore for her support and help and the staff at IVS for offering James this opportunity.



I Give a Gonski!

The Review of Funding for Schooling (Gonski Report) of 2010-2011 was the most comprehensive investigation into schools funding since the Karmel report of 1973.



Intense national campaigns, coordinated by the Australian Education Union (AEU) resulted in the announcement by then Federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, in April of 2010, for a comprehensive review into schools funding to be headed by businessman, David Gonski.

Elements of the Gonski model

Central to the Gonski model is the requirement that all schools in Australia are to be brought up to a **minimum Schooling Resource Standard** within a **six-year** transition period (2014-2019) and then maintained at or above that Standard.

- Gonski funding is to be **recurrent**.
- Both the Commonwealth and State governments must contribute recurrent funding, with the bulk of that funding (65%) to be from the national government due to its greater capacity to raise revenue.
- All state governments must not only contribute recurrent funding but must **cease funding cuts to education** and grow their share by an annual indexation rate of 3%. The Commonwealth indexation rate must be 4.7%.
- The additional Gonski funding must be **needs based**.

As well as additional base funding for all schools there is additional funding for six loadings to reflect the added costs of educating **Indigenous students, students with disabilities, students from low SES families, students with limited English proficiency, students in small schools and for those in remote schools.**



TeachMeet
Tuesday 11 August 2015

Great Ideas for Teaching English



SSU hosted the first TeachMeet in Week 5. **TeachMeets** are meetings where teachers share good practice, practical ideas and personal insights into teaching particular KLAS. TeachMeets provide the opportunity for teachers to network, and to hear and share ideas and resources.

The presentations included:

- Chahla Maksour-**SSU**: "White Ribbon Literacy Components"
- Anthony Demertzis-**Lake Illawarra High School**: "Visual Literacy and procedures using Lego Techno"
- Robyn Christofidies and Caroline Haselden-**Flametree**: "Literacy Planet and Readers Theatre"

- Peta Josh-**Bulli High School**: "Deltora Quest Game Trivia Quiz using the Deltora Quest Novels"
- Pam Hurley-**Oak Flats Public School**: "Hitler's Daughter Play" using drama as a reading tool.

News from the staff room

Catherine Jack is completing a practicum (work experience) at Port Kembla hospital as part of her Social Work degree for all of Term 3. The students and the staff are pleased to have Jay Gallagher and Harry Stewart filling the position.



Jay Gallagher



Date of Birth: 20-03-1995
Height: 186
Weight: 101
Position: Lock, Second Row
Rep. Honours: NA
Junior Clubs: Glen Innes Magpies

National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline

The National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline is a free, independent and confidential service for reporting mistreatment of people with disability.

Anyone can contact the Hotline-family members, friends, service-providers or the person with disability themselves.

Abuse is not to be tolerated and comes in many forms:

- Physical abuse, where someone hits or beats a person with disability
- Mental or psychological abuse where someone is called names, yelled at or ignored
- Financial abuse where money is taken from a person with disability or they are denied access to their funds
- Sexual abuse where an individual is forced to have sex or subject to unwanted touching.



People with disability are also vulnerable to neglect:

- Being denied basic things such as food, medicine, clothes or making them feel unsafe
- Being confined to their room or not being allowed visitors.

You can contact the Hotline if you are unsure what is happening is actually abuse or neglect and we can help clarify the situation.

FROM SSU KITCHEN



The junior class continues to explore healthier options of cooking. Loretta and Emeka baked some delicious choc chips biscuits that were enjoyed by all.

Emeka started at the unit this term and he has proven to be a delightful young man who is keen to learn, is excited about our sports activities and who loves cooking ...

Hooray!!!



The senior class cooked savoury dishes including Sushi, San Choy Bow and chicken tortillas that were enjoyed by staff and students. **San Choy Bao** was a big hit and made it to the canteen list even though it was a healthy alternative and had carrots, mushrooms and Zucchini or **the green things according to Shane.**

Shane was so proud of his cooking skills and walked around delivering plates to staff and students. Well done!!!

Assembly Highlights- Congratulations!!!

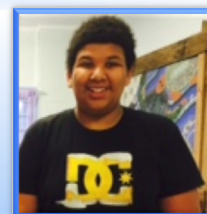
Bailey Murray received the silver award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.



Joshua Thompson received the bronze award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.

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Emeka Benson received the Student of the Fortnight Award for displaying a positive attitude towards learning and towards staff and peers.



AIME

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience

"AIME" is a dynamic educational program that is proven to support Indigenous students through high school and into university, employment or further education at the same rate as all Australian students. AIME gives Indigenous students the skills, opportunities, belief and confidence to grow and succeed.



AIME TO ENGAGE INDIGENOUS DE STUDENTS

On 12 June 2015, Jack Mitchell and Bailey Murray from the Smith St Unit attended an Australian Indigenous Experience (AIME) program day at the University of Wollongong.

The initiative is a joint collaboration through the Smith St Unit and Karabar Distance Education Centre. Last Friday, Cyndy accompanied Jaemee Clarke and attended the AIME session on drugs and alcohol. They also watched some Aboriginal students display their talents through singing, drama and dancing.

Gardening at SSU



What a delight!!!!

Shane proudly showed the broccoli growing in our garden to Tracey Coleman (Student Services officer from Regional office).

SSU Flash News:

Two police officers visited the unit on Tuesday 11th August and discussed with the students the dangers and consequences of **Cyber Bullying, sexting and social media.**

MISSION AUSTRALIA | together we stand



The Transition Support Project created by Mission Australia aims to support young people with disabilities to plan and prepare for post school life. Jeniveve Podmore from Mission Australia has been working with four of our students Dryden, Zeb, Sam, and James since February. We are fortunate that the project is re-funded and Jeniveve is now able to assist David and Dylan in their plans for post school options. Jeniveve and Chahla work closely to ensure the students' transition to life beyond school is a successful one.



The Smith Street unit is a service of the New South Wales Department of Education providing specialised support in a unique environment. Students are provided with individualised learning programs to meet the educational needs.

The unit has served the students of the Illawarra for over a quarter of a century with the key mission providing a nurturing environment where students can grow into mature young men and women. It is always exciting to see graduates come back to share their success stories.

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