In speaking with our new principal, Mr Rodney Hill we learned much about him. Mr Hill said he has a passionate belief that quality public education makes a difference in people's lives. He said: “This stems from my own life experiences.” He also said it was his drive as an educator to ensure every child is given the best opportunities to succeed. “Their world needs them to be able to collaborate, think critically and create solutions for a bright future.”

Mr Hill said it is an absolute privilege to lead a large and dynamic school. “I will ensure collaboration so we can all work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for students, staff, the Learning Community and the broader community of Wyong.”

Mr Hill looks forward to ensuring Wyong High School has a strong shared vision, with innovative programs which will continue to improve student learning outcomes. “I will dedicate all possible resources so that quality programs continue to prepare students for the 21st century workforce regardless of their learning needs.” He looks forward to building on the strong relationships between all members of the school community so together we can continue to be a high functioning school.

“I also acknowledge the honour and accept the responsibility we all have in educating Aboriginal students. Strong partnerships with students, parents, community, local and regional AECG means we will educate all Australian people about Aboriginal Australia.”

Mr Hill said he will ensure that there is a broad offering of curriculum and programs so that the real question can be answered “How is your child smart”? Mr Hill impressed us with his passion, experience and commitment to our school and its students, staff and community.
IMPORTANT DATES

WEEK 7
10th Mar - 2016 Year 7 Information Evening.

WEEK 8
16th Mar - Welcome BBQ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, mentors and families
16th Mar - Boys’ Waterpolo Gala Day
17th Mar - Sydney North Swimming Carnival
18th Mar - P&C AGM
19th Mar - Year 6 Technology Day

WEEK 9
23rd-25th Mar - Year 7 Camp

WEEK 10
30th Mar-2nd Apr - Year 12 Half Yearly Exams

Wyong High’s Junior Sports Young Achiever

Brad Pemberton, Year 9, had a great night at the 2014 Junior Sports Star Awards and was named Central Coast Young Acheiver.

Brad, who has spina bifida, has been wheelchair racing for the past three years with tremendous results. His efforts throughout 2014 were especially pleasing with three silver medals at the NSW titles at Sydney Olympic Park. Brad competed in the under 19 years Athletics with a Disability 200m, 400m and 1500m, proving he can really move!

Those results were followed by many encouraging efforts at other major races throughout 2014.

“It’s overwhelming, but a good feeling when my name got read out,” said Brad.

Article summarised from the original by Steve Maher, Central Coast Wyong Express Advocate, 20/02/2015.

日本語 JAPANESE NEWS

BOOK WORK

Welcome to the new school year. Year 8 has been working hard so far! Students have been engaged in cultural discussions and will soon learn how to talk about themselves in Japanese. After that, we will focus on our first Japanese alphabet, hiragana. Please encourage your child to get their book covered and keep their notes up to date. All work completed in class can be accessed on the internet via Sharepoint and Blog Ed. If your child is absent please encourage them to catch up on missed work to keep their book up to date.
SUMO & FOOD UNIT
By now your child may have mentioned the chance to participate in a Sumo Wrestling and a Japanese Food Unit. Students have been asked to pay $20 at the front office or parents can pay via credit card over the phone. $10 is for consumables during cultural activities. This is part of the school fees. The other $10 allows the hiring of sumo suits and hopefully tasting a Japanese meal. There is a minimum number of students required to pay before the suits can be hired. As you can see, it is a lot of fun! Don’t miss out, return your note to Mrs Furey and pay at the office ASAP!

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE!
The LOTE Department would greatly appreciate any donations of ice cream containers, egg cartons, newspapers, magazines & yogurt containers. Please make sure they are washed and dry. This will enable students to participate in hands-on lessons. Please bring donations to the English Staffroom or Y207. I look forward to a great year working with your child and to meeting you. Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!

Kirrily Furey - Teacher, LOTE

Swimming Carnival Champions
Our school swimming carnival was held on Thursday 5/2 at Wyong Pool and despite some early rain proved to be a successful and fun day. All students had the opportunity to participate and gain points for their house groups in a range of activities including racing competitively, participating in novelty events and the continuous relay. For those students who made it into our zone swimming team, they will be competing at Mingara on Wednesday 25/2. Congratulations to our house champions, Baker House! And congratulations to our age champions:

**Girls**
- 12 Years: Mary Hughes
- 13 Years: Jade Miller
- 14 Years: Chantel Johnston
- 15 Years: Jennifer Kwon
- 16 Years: Tamika Schrader-Rhodes
- 17+ Years: Rebecca Schweikert

**Boys**
- 12 Years: Joshua Pickles
- 13 Years: Brady Holmes
- 14 Years: Jack Hocking
- 15 Years: Liam Shannon
- 16 Years: Blake Holmes
- 17 Years: Hayden Stinson

Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what’s happening at Wyong High School!
I would like to extend to Mr Reynolds our very best wishes as he retires from his position as Deputy Principal of Wyong High School. He has been an exceptional educational leader who has dedicated more than seven years to Wyong High School, its students, staff and community. His leadership has seen a tremendously positive influence over students and staff as he shaped a bright future for so many. Whilst he will be very sadly missed, we take comfort in the knowledge that he has built capacity for us all so that we can continue to build on the foundations he has laid for us. I know that we will continue to hear of many achievements and great stories in his new journey as he has built such great friendships in his time here. Thank you Mr Reynolds for what you have done for all of us and we trust that you will enjoy your well-earned retirement!

As I will be retiring on Friday March 6, this will be my final report in the Wyong High School newsletter. It has been a privilege to have served this school community over the past seven years. I have really appreciated the opportunity to work in partnership with families and the community to help students to achieve positive outcomes. Always remember that this is a great school, and that if you observe our core values of respect and responsibility, you will go a long way towards being successful in learning and in life. I wish you all the best for the future.

It has been wonderful to see our new Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 cohorts applying themselves so productively and diligently to their education and taking up the challenges of making a positive start to the year. Setting goals early and being respectful and responsible will help to achieve success. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr Reynolds as Deputy Principal at Wyong HS over the past seven years. He has supported the staff, students and parents at our school in so many ways and I wish him the very best in retirement. I am extremely proud to call him a mentor, colleague and most all, a friend.

**ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS**

**PARENT COURSE: Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems.**

A three session program for parents and carers at WYONG SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE Culter Drive, Wyong

Monday 9th March, Monday 16th March and Monday 23rd March 12:30-2:30pm

Learn:

- Some common ground shared by parents and reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
- New understandings of adolescence.
- A three option model and flow chart for decision making.
- Self check-in, first - for parents.
- Building a relationship with your teenager and making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them.
- Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore.

Enquiries and Registration:

Register for this course contacting Karissa Baker on 0401 414 177

Or Samaritans (Ray or Kip) on 4332 1141.

An end to the arguing and yelling! It saves lives.
Simple, sane, effective.

**The Tell Them From Me**

**Students, Parents & Staff**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27th February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above. Further details about the staff and parent survey will follow throughout Term 2.

**Ms Penni - HT T&L, LAST**

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**WHS AFTER SCHOOL STUDY CENTRE OPEN EVERY MONDAY**

The Wyong High School After School Study centre has opened for 2015. All students are welcome to join us in the school library from 3:20pm-5pm each Monday afternoon during the school term. Support is offered for homework, assessment tasks, examination preparation and study skills. Students will have access to computers and printing and are offered light refreshments.

(Please note students are to organise their own arrangements for transport upon leaving each Monday.)

**Ms Penni - HT T&L, LAST**

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**Special Education Unit Raises Big Bucks**

We are fundraising for some major items we require within our unit. The first money raised will be for air conditioning and the second will be for smart boards to go into each classroom. This is a lot of hard work and volunteering from staff and students. We need your support and the support of our community to make this happen.

If anyone has contact with workplaces for donations for raffles or trivia nights please contact Melissa Felton on 43531088.

We have another Bunnings BBQ booked in for **Wednesday 8th July 2015 from 7am to 4pm**. This is in the school holidays so if anyone would like to assist please contact Melissa.

Special thanks go to our sponsors: Bakers Delight Wyong Plaza, Forest Fruits Toukley, Meat of George Toukley and Masterfoods. Please support these local businesses and make sure you say you saw their name in our newsletter.

**Ms Young - Teacher, Special Education Unit**
Meet our amazing new staff member: Lauren Gregor

When did you start at Wyong High School? I worked at Wyong HS in 2012 for a year. However, I moved to Townsville for my partner’s posting. We moved back down to Newcastle this year, where I was lucky enough to work at Wyong again.

What is your favourite thing about Wyong High School? The students! And the close staff network really makes you feel supported.

What is your favourite food? Thai food! Yes please!

Who is your idol and why? My parents. They have fantastic morals and ethics, always getting the most out of what life has to offer.

What is the best advice you have ever been given? Good things come to those who work really hard.

Please finish this sentence: Education provides... opportunity!

MEET OUR NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS!

**Allen House**
- Boys: Jake Brown and Nathan Connor
- Girls: Kaleigh Croser and Sunanda Deeming
- Mascot: Rikki Camilleri

**Baker House**
- Boys: Blake Holmes and Jordan Hicks
- Girls: Chantelle Johnston and Phoebe Joseph
- Mascot: Too many to mention!

**McKimm House**
- Boys: Chad Millington and Matt Rawsthorne
- Girls: Courtney McDermott and Laura Morgan
- Mascots: Lachlan Pass and Duke Millington

**Rose House**
- Boys: Brayden Whitmore and Kevin Smith
- Girls: Natasha West and TeWhaea Tamihana
- Mascot: Jarrod Smith

BIG WIN FOR GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL

Well done to our girls’ volleyball team who played Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College on Friday 20th February. The team was never really troubled by their opponents winning the game in 3 straight sets. The girls will now play Cherrybrook HS at Sydney Olympic Park on the 6th March.

Mr Carter - HT PDHPE and CAPA

Alinta Uniform Shop Sale!

Our uniform shop is having an END OF LEASE SALE.

Prices have been drastically reduced and stock is limited!

Please call the uniform shop directly on 4351 1600.