

From the Principal

The HSC Trial exams ended last week and the Year 12 girls will be finishing their course work very soon, if they have not done so already. The girls are revising and realising that they don't have long left at school. I encourage them to use the remainder of this term to study and prepare for the upcoming HSC.

Great to see the girls playing sports again. They seem to be enjoying themselves. I'm especially impressed with our open hockey team who are a very young team and are admirably competing against older teams and doing well. It's also pleasing to see girls embracing sports they haven't done before and working outside their comfort zones. For example we have girls playing rugby for the first time.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions remaining uncertain, we have had to cancel the 125 Year Celebration Ball for this year. We are hopeful that we can have our Ball next year when everything has settled.

Our school Valedictory Assembly and Chapel Service to celebrate our amazing Year 12 students will still be going ahead in a slightly different format as we have to adhere to strict regulations. Unfortunately Parents and Guardians won't be able to attend because of restrictions from NSW Health. Details about what is happening will be sent out next week.

I continue to be amazed by the resilience of our students and their embracing of the school values of Responsibility, Integrity and Excellence.



MR MARK FLYNN
NEGS ACTING PRINCIPAL





SRC Mask Making Day

Our student representative council have been working hard to serve our NEGS community during these unprecedented COVID-19 times. One way that they have identified that they will be able to help students is by running a decorate your own mask competition. In order to do this the SRC have generously volunteered their time to hand make masks for all senior school students. In our meetings the SRC has been busily preparing patterns and cutting material to make the masks.

On Saturday, 22 August SRC students, and other interested boarding students met in the textiles room from 1 pm to 5 pm to assist in putting these masks together. Students were assigned a role based on their capabilities, sewing, ironing, cutting out patterns, and pinning material.

Masks will be gifted to all senior school students on 2 September during tutor time. During this time they will be given 20 minutes to decorate their masks. The best mask from each tutor group will then go in the running for the best decorated mask!

Please note that students are advised that masks are an extra tool in the protection of themselves and others against COVID-19. Wearing a mask is not a 100% guarantee that the virus cannot be contracted, but it will, in combination with good hygiene and social distancing, reduce the chance of passing on viral particles, or receiving them. The SRC would like to emphasise that wearing a mask does not replace the need for social distancing and good hygiene!

The SRC would also like to emphasise that not only can you be COVID safe, but you can look fabulous in your own decorated mask!





NEGS Friendship Tree

We are making a NEGS Friendship Tree outside the Forster Music Block. Year 9 girls have taken up the challenge of learning how to knit or crochet and are busy in Year Meetings, in the boarding house and at home knitting for the tree. We have realised that we will need a lot of knitting to cover the tree so we are asking any parents or grandparents if they would like to help with knitting for the tree. We're using bright coloured wool for the tree and we're doing plain knitting. Mrs Smith and our chaplain Miss Ramsay are knitting as well as other teachers at school. This will be a wonderful project for the NEGS community to participate in. All knitting will be gratefully received and we will sew it all together to fit around the trunk and branches of the tree.

If you can't knit you might like to donate some balls of yarn to the project. Please leave them at the front office and they will get to all the knitters at school. Many thanks to the lovely families who have already donated wool to the project.

The groundsmen are busy making new seats to go around the tree. The students will be involved in painting the seats with pictures that mean something to them e.g. our indigenous students will paint their culture, our equestrian students will be painting horses, our Livestock students will paint cattle, and the list goes on.

The NEGS Friendship tree is for everyone in the school to enjoy meeting and sitting in such a lovely spot. It will be an area where you will feel happy looking at the knitted tree and lovely artworks on the seat.

Thank you everyone for your support of this project.

SALLY SPILLANE



Agriculture Update

Unfortunately with COVID, most Agriculture extracurricular activities have been cancelled for the rest of the year. Thankfully the annual *UNE GRASS* scholarship is still running as an 'online' camp over 2 days and all going well, students will still possibly have the opportunity to be involved in the accompanying work experience down the track. ([SEE UNE WEBSITE FOR GRASS STUDENT OPPORTUNITY](#))

I'm very proud of our HSC Agriculture students at the moment as they work hard to complete the course and to thoroughly prepare for the final HSC examination next term. Year 11 are also now in preparation for their yearly examination after completing their major Animal/ Plant Research Task. Stage 5 are in the middle of their *Pastures* unit where students will soon conduct a pasture trial incorporating techniques around good experimental design. Stage 4 will begin '*Raising Poultry*' at the end of this term after completing their *Wooden Toys* unit as part of the *Mandatory Technology* course.

This semester both the year 3/4 and year 5 Primary school classes have been completing an Agriculture lesson each week where students have been involved in plant and animal production and the general running of our school farm. It's encouraging that so many students are keen on Agriculture - Australia's most important industry!

Very soon we will unfortunately sell a number of our heavier exhibition steers with the cancellation of the *Scone Beef Bonanza*. Thankfully prices are strong which is one advantage. We will retain our smaller steers for the local shows next year as well as gaining a couple more from one of our suppliers, the Cole family at Forbes.

Our school ewes have all lambed successfully with most ewes giving birth to twins. Lambs are always a joy for students.

'Alfonzo' the Large White cross Landrace boar has recently arrived at NEGS with the hope of breeding piglets from our Berkshire sows. Fingers crossed for lots of piglets!

Our chickens this year have been in high demand. Every year we purchase a hundred or so female laying day old chicks, put them under our heat lamp in the brooder box and sell them off to the NEGS community as they get older. This year we have a new breed of commercial chicks called Heritage Whites. As they mature, most of their diet comes from our dining hall kitchen where no leftover food is wasted. This has been a real success!

Our fruit orchard trees look very close to bursting into blossom. A welcome indication that spring is nearly here! And it's shaping up to be a wonderful Spring with terrific soil moisture!

MR MARK FISHER
AGRICULTURE TEACHER
FARM AND LIVESTOCK TEAM MANAGER



Equestrian Centre Update

8 lucky NEGS students ranging from year 7 to 12, had private lessons with a highly sought after Show Riding coach, Les Friend, last weekend, 15th & 16th August.

Thank you to our amazing Show Team coach Justine Aitken for organising the clinic with Les, she put in a huge effort in coordinating cancelled flights and 2 venues, at NEGS for our students and at the Showground Cattle Complex for community riders who snapped up the opportunity to train with Les as well. I saw first hand and have heard great reports all round, how everyone benefited greatly from such expert instruction, including Justine herself, who will continue to work the fundamentals with the students and follow up on their continued progress. Shoshone has been with the Show Team for many years and says that Les is her favourite visiting coach to take lessons with and absolutely worth the money. I know all participants last weekend would agree. Here are a few photos from the weekend, all students presented themselves and their horses beautifully and there was much camaraderie and teamwork going on in the stables while the girls prepared their horses for lessons on both days. We can't wait to have Les back again in Term 4.

As well as showjumping and cross country lessons with Matt Ryan this weekend, the girls finished off with a Sunday afternoon friendly 'Jump for Chocolate' showjumping competition organised by Lottie J. It was a great afternoon of fun and a very well organised competition with Matt Ryan as judge. There was something for everyone that participated and helped. Here are a few photos from Sunday, with more to come soon on the EC Facebook page.

Dressage lessons are now fully booked out with Peter Shaw for the following weekend, 29th and 30th August. We look forward to having high profile dressage instruction come to NEGS and our instructors will take advantage of learning opportunities and assessment from Peter who is a Coach Educator, so that they can continue to train our students and horses using the best techniques.

We have opened up a second day of the Roping Clinic on Sunday 13th September, due to popular demand. Book now to secure the last spots, it's bound to be a challenge and lots of fun. You may even see me trying to swing a rope!

Stay tuned for more about our end of term in-house competition for all disciplines.

AMY LAYTON | NEGS EC COORDINATOR



School Absence Procedure

Just a reminder that when your children are absent for part or all of a day, the school needs to be advised. It is preferable if this can happen before 9am.

Please either complete the Student Absence notification (if this is completed, a record is kept) as below, or email attendance@negs.nsw.edu.au. As a last resort, phone the school on 02 6774 8700.

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTIFICATION INFORMATION (ENGAGE)

1. Log into your Parent Portal.
2. In the blue menu bar select 'Daybook' and from the drop down menu 'Pupil Daybook.'
3. When in the Daybook screen, click 'Add new entry' and from the drop down menu select 'Student Absence Notification.'
4. From there, a form will open for you to fill out the sections that apply to your child's absence (*double click your child's name on the left hand side to select*). Please ensure the correct dates are entered for leave.
5. Our Attendance Officer will process the absence.
6. Click "**Save and close**" to submit the form.

Thank you for your assistance,

HELEN SMITH
ATTENDANCE OFFICER

Unwell students

We request that you do not send any student to school who is exhibiting ANY signs of illness or states they are feeling unwell.

We also ask that if you answer 'yes' to any of the following 4 questions, that you keep your child at home and contact the Health Centre (02 6774 8700) to discuss.

- **Has anyone in your household been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**
- **Have you been in Victoria or a hotspot in the last 14 Days?**
- **Has anyone recently returned from traveling?**
- **Does anyone in your household have any of the following symptoms? Fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath?**

In the event that a student needs to be tested please inform the school immediately. Before returning to school we require a certificate from their GP stating they have returned a negative result for COVID-19 and are fit to return to school. If your child receives a negative result, we still ask that you keep your child home until all symptoms of illness have passed.

Despite some reports from the Government about social distancing in schools, our situation is different as we are considered a residential facility. Restrictions about no adults on campus remains the same as does the restrictions for drop offs and pickups.

The situation remains fluid and all changes are made in consultation with the advice from the Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Health, Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

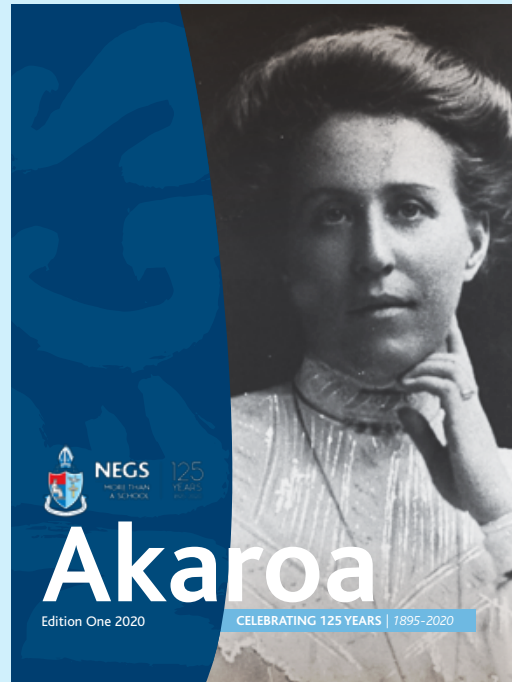
PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We ask that if any students are travelling on public transport, particularly on planes, trains and long distance buses, that they wear a mask.

Illuminate Challenge

Last week, Year 10 competed in the Illuminate Next:gen Challenge. Over 4 days the 4 teams competed against other schools in a challenge which provides high school students with an authentic entrepreneurial environment which allows them to activate their confidence, creativity, time management, teamwork, and problem solving skills to solve real world problems using the innovation process. Normally the challenge is conducted at the UNE Smart Regional Incubator, this year it was conducted virtually, with live check-ins, mentor meetings and business input and feedback. The girls were given the challenge to create a business which will be the solution to a problem created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 4 teams were put to the test with short deadlines, the challenges that working collaboratively can create, and even just when they thought it was over, a pressure cooker test!

The teams created 4 businesses in 4 days, each with their own unique solution to the current global situation. They created financial plans, marketing strategy as well as a lean canvas, elevator pitch, business plan and finally a business explainer video. Year 10 are all to be congratulated on the way they rose to the challenge. In the awards ceremony on Thursday night NEGS took home 3 awards. Team 12 were awarded Best Short Challenges by the external judges, they were also awarded the Student Choice Best Idea, jointly with Team 11. Team 10 won the Student Choice Best Business. It was a fantastic 4 days and Mrs Watson totally enjoyed herself as NEGS facilitator.



Akaroa: Edition One 2020

The Akaroa is here! Some of you may have already received a copy in the mail. For those who have elected for a digital copy, you can download it from the NEGS website here:

[Click here to download](#)

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Year 7 and the Olympic Games

Year 7 has been studying German in 2020. They have just completed work on the modern Olympic Games, held in Berlin in 1936 and in Munich in 1972.

The class competed in teams on an incursion with their teacher, Madame Nadolny. Regan Simpson and Zahlie Cabot chose to represent Brazil.

They won first prize and were crowned with wreaths of greenery.

2020 Important Dates

This calendar will be updated each fortnight as COVID-19 restrictions ease and we can start adding events to our school year.

TERM THREE

IGSSA Hockey/Netball trip (Round 2) departs - TBC	3 September
Year 11 Exams commence	9 September
IGSSA Hockey/Netball trip (Finals) departs - TBC	17 September
Year 12 Chapel and Valedictory Day - TBC for Wk 10	21-24 September
Last day of Term 3	24 September
Holidays commence	25 September

TERM FOUR

Boarders Return (Sunday)	11 October
Term 4 classes resume	12 October
HSC written examinations commence	20 October
Year 7 and 8 yearly exam week commences	2 November
Year 9 and 10 yearly exam week commences	9 November
HSC written examinations end	11 November
Junior School Speech Day	3 December
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	3 December
Speech Day	4 December
Last day of Term 4	4 December
Holidays Commence	5 December



PCYC | COURSE™ SAFER DRIVERS COURSE FOR LEARNER DRIVERS

THE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE INVOLVES TWO MODULES

MODULE ONE:
A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road.
This will involve a maximum of 12 participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

MODULE TWO:
A two-hour, in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies.
This will involve two participants and a coach.

LEARNER DRIVERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WILL RECEIVE 20 HOURS OFF THEIR LOG BOOK.

Upcoming Dates

Saturdays	9am till 12pm
05/09/2020	03/10/2020
07/11/2020	05/12/2020

\$140

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST:
Hold a valid NSW Learner Licence, be under 25 years of age and have completed a minimum of 50 hours of actual on-road driving hours in their Learner Logbook.

Book Online at
<https://www.pcycdriveducationprograms-sdc.org.au/book-a-course>

PCYC ARMIDALE
02 6772 1023
armidale@pcycnsw.org.au
Find us on 

ADTA
SAFE DRIVER FOR LIFE

PCYC Safe Drivers Course

Every month, PCYC Armidale holds the Safer Drivers Course for Learner drivers under the age of 25.

Module 1 of the course (In class session) runs on a Saturday from 9am until 12pm where the students will learn how to manage the risks on the road.

Module 2 of the course (2 hour driving lesson) runs during time slots in the week following the Saturday.

Once the students have completed both the Module 1 and Module 2 parts of the course, they will receive a total of 20 hours off in their log book.

This is a great course and students learn a lot about driver safety plus they receive 20 hours off their log book!

If you have any questions, please give us them call on 02 6772 1023.