Our service clubs have again been supporting our students. On Monday night, Lions hosted the Lions Youth of the Year. Three students entered: Kate Kelly, Cameron McKellar and Shannon Thomson-Jones. Each were interviewed by the three judges then returned later for the dinner and speaking aspects of the competition. First up, each student was brought out and had to speak for two minutes on topics that they were handed: the future of plastic bags and whether cats should be let out at night. Each was able to speak to the topics drawing on their knowledge from across a range of areas, and each visibly had a sigh of relief at the end. After dinner the students presented a prepared speech. The topics were diverse: the meaning of leadership, valuing what you have and the role of technology in our lives. They all spoke to their time and really engaged the audiences. They were all wonderful candidates. The experience of last year gave Kate Kelly that extra bit of confidence; she won both the best speaker and overall winner. Kate will now move on to the zone level of competition. Both Shannon and Cameron felt a great sense of achievement and are considering returning next year. They were all a real credit to the school. They put their skills to good use on assembly, asking some teachers and students to try the impromptu speeches: lots of laughs and some pauses! Mr Lynch showed us all why he supports and promotes public speaking.

On Wednesday night the captains spoke to Rotarians about their roles as students leaders. Alec Abbott, Melissa Causer, Taylor Hewen and Finlay Johnson were complimented on their considered talks on how they each saw their role as student leaders, their unassuming confidence and on their appearance as school representative. The Rotarians were amazed at how much the role had changed since their own time at school and their understanding of the role, thoughts they felt they would not have considered at the same age. It was a very enjoyable night and the parents and I were very proud of what was said about our students and school.

Year 8 and 9 students had a scientific treat on Tuesday. Engineers without borders, four university students in the process of studying engineering and architecture ran some problem solving activities for the students. Year 9, accustomed to the Science and Engineering Challenge, had to work in groups to build and test an artificial leg, while Year 8 had to construct a floating house that was tested by its capacity to hold marbles. The students had to think and work as teams to solve the challenges and learnt a lot in the process. The visiting team were impressed with the students’ great manners and desire to participate and get involved. They travel to lots of schools and work with many students and ours stood out for their enthusiastic and cooperative attitude.

The open cricket team played a very strong Dubbo team on Monday. Batting first the local side was bowled out for less than 70, and it didn’t take the Dubbo team long to accrue the runs to win the match. Our team was disappointed to be outplayed by Dubbo, but acknowledged the skills of the visitors.
Year 10 have been developing skills as they make the transition from Year 10 to Stage 6. They completed a two day course on being effective teenagers, learning the 7 Habits programme that can support them in being focused, organised successful learners and young adults. A group completed their white card training, excited about passing a TAFE accredited course, while others started work on developing their version of the amazing race in exploring the opportunities and experiences of international travel while working collaboratively in groups.

Staff were treated by Year 12 hospitality students during the week. The students have been developing skills in the competency of preparation of salads. Eight beautiful salads were prepared along with tandoori chicken. The salads were colourful, varied and great to eat. They have very successfully demonstrated their competencies in that component of the course.

Last week, like other public schools across New South Wales, we received notice of the additional funds that will be granted to the school for 2015. As in last year’s allocation of funds, we received just under $250000 for low socio-economic status and Aboriginal education. This year we were granted just over $700000 as a rural and remote allocation. This amounts to over $100000 additional funds to the school’s operational budget, an amazing commitment from the state government to public education. We are talking a lot about our strategic directions and how these funds can be used most effectively to enhance our students learning outcomes, continue to support our staff’s professional learning and sustain and develop our partnerships with our community, here and beyond. You’ll hear more about this.

Margaret Carey
Principal

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**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lisa Eastaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Marg/Carolyn Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Beth Knight</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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**PRESENTATION DAY**

This year our presentation day will be held on Wednesday 17 December, commencing at 11am. All parents, family members and friends are welcomed to attend.

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**GRENFELL SWIMMING CLUB**

Our timekeeper and raffle roster seems to be running smoothly. Seven families are rostered on each week – six get to hold the stopwatch and one takes on the selling of raffle tickets. Thanks to those who have been so ready to donate a raffle prize. These can be left in the office with Leann or handed to Jen Bell on Friday night. Congratulations to Mandy Taylor, winner of last Friday’s raffle.

Our permanent nominations sheet was emailed to families last week to check that entries are correct. Remember to let us know of any changes - the sooner the better. Things get a bit frantic on Friday afternoons so reducing last minute phone calls can reduce mistakes in the message taking process.

There were so many promotions last week! We are seeing a big improvement in our swimmers. This was reflected in the number who moved from 20m events to 33m and from 33m events to 50m. In one case an entire heat was promoted to the next level. Well done!

Next week’s roster:

Capra, Baker, Troy, Hughes (S&B), Taylor (M&R), Bucknell, Brenner

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**STUDENT TRAVEL CARDS**

Are you over the age of 16? Are you traveling on public transport over the Christmas break? If so, you may require a student concession card to travel at the discounted student rate. Please see the staff at the front office by 2 December if you require one. You will need to give them 24 hours notice for processing.
Numeracy: problem of the week

Three rectangles are lined up horizontally as shown.

The first rectangle has a width of 2cm and length of 4cm.
The second rectangle has a width of 4cm and length of 8cm.
The third rectangle has a width of 8cm and length of 16cm.

A straight line joins the bottom left corner to the top right corner.

Find the area of the shaded region.

Give your written solution, with working out, to Mr Jones
by next Tuesday for a chance to win a reward.

The Henry Lawson High School P&C
would like to invite all parents and caregivers to our
last meeting of 2014
to be held in the library
at 7PM on
Tuesday 2 December.
This meeting will be followed by supper.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
Volunteers Needed

Our canteen needs volunteers for just one day a month, that’s two or three days a term.

A day in the canteen helps you understand what’s going on with different events at school and what exciting things are happening around our school.

You get to put a face to the people teaching and changing the lives of your teenagers.

You get to see your children having fun with their friends, and believe it or not, the kids enjoy seeing you in the canteen, even though sometimes they say different.

Volunteers come in about 10.30am and help prepare food, assist with serving the students, refill chips and fridges and help wash and wipe up. Lunch and tea or coffee is provided. The day ends at 2.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, mums, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends.

If you can help, please fill in the slip below or ring Sonja at the school on 6343 1390 or at home on 0487612258, as soon as possible so the roster can be made up for next year.

To Sonja Cotter

Name: _____________________________

Phone Number: _______________________

Preferred Day: _______________________

Please return this form to:
The Henry Lawson High P&C
South St, Gunnedah NSW 2380
henrylawson.h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

True North team building exercises.