



Mount Kanwarly Messenger



NUMBERS UP: Year 5 students Elli Pillidge and Ben Muddle enjoying Mathematics.

— Picture by Jessica Burg

Mathletics is athletics for the brain

By JESSICA BURG and JESSICA GROSSER

STUDENTS from Mount Kanwarly Public School are embracing an online maths program called Mathletics.

Mathletics is a fun and educational maths program on the internet where students can compete against children from around the world.

Mount Kanwarly's senior class of students from Years 4, 5 and 6 were lucky enough to have the Parents and Citizens group buy each student a one-year subscription to Mathletics, allowing them to access the program at home and school.

Mathletics aims to inspire better results in students from kindergarten to Year 12 through live maths games.

It also has sections that cover all aspects of mathematics and offers a range of activities catered to individual student needs.

"It's great to see the students so motivated to learn," teacher Mrs Kylie Smith said.

Mathletics has been used by 500,000 students at 2000 schools.

"When I first started using Mathletics I was only getting about 10 questions correct per game, now I'm getting almost 40 correct, it's great," Year 4 student Logan Tewkesbury said.

Young champs take lead

By CARLI KEATING and MADISON LAWRENCE

MOUNT Kanwarly Public School students Jamie, Jessica and Ryan Grosser competed in the Australian poll hereford junior show at Dubbo Showground in July.

The Grossers, aged 11, 10 and 8 respectively, competed against 78 other young cattle farmers from six to 25 years old.

Events they competed in included parading, judging, heifer class and herdsman.

Jessica was awarded first place in the under-10s parade, Ryan claimed second and Jamie was placed first in the under-15s for parading.

Parading involves parading a cow around the show ring and competitors are judged on how well they present themselves and their cattle.

The Grossers also placed well in the heifer class, being awarded third, fourth and fifth places.

In the heifer class event, competitors are judged on the quality of their cattle.

Judges look at the texture of the coat, how well the animal is built and even how 'feminine' the heifer looks.

"The heifer class was the hardest event because my cow was smaller compared to all the rest," Jessica said.



CATTLE KINGS: At rear, Tegan Armstrong, Jamie Grosser and Jessica Grosser and, front, Ryan Grosser, Jake Armstrong, Nathan Grosser and Brooke Armstrong.

Other events the young champions placed well in included herdsman and judging.

The herdsman event judges how well the competitors care for their cattle while judging requires the judges to place the cattle from first

to fourth and give their opinion why.

After the show the competitors were presented with their awards at a ceremony.

Prizes consisted of buckets, belts, brushes, nose-rings, tool boxes and

blowers, which will be useful to help prepare for the next show.

The young champions started competing at a young age.

Jamie and Jessica both started at four years of age while Ryan started at five.



GOOD TALKERS: Mount Kanwarly's debating team Jessica Burg, Tegan Armstrong, Lauren Andrews and Madison Lawrence. — Picture by Ben Muddle and Joe Morris

Pull up a chair for great debating

By JOE MORRIS and BEN MUDDLE

THE Maitland education district debating competition division-two challenge is well under way for 2008.

Schools from the Maitland district - including Anna Bay, Bobs Farm, Dungog, Gresford, Grahamstown, Karuah, Medowie, Salt Ash, Seaham, Shoal Bay, Soldiers Point, Mount Kanwarly,

Tomaree and Wirreanda - are competing.

Mount Kanwarly, a small school of only 48 students, has entered a team of students from Years 5 and 6.

The team is Madison Lawrence (speaker 1), Lauren Andrews (speaker 2), Tegan Armstrong (speaker 3) and Jessica Burg (team advisor).

The competition includes six main rounds and covers topics such as 'all primary

pupils should be made to learn at least one foreign language', 'that we should not keep animals as pets', 'that mobile phones should be banned in primary schools', 'that only high schools should be co-educational', 'that school excursions are a waste of time' and that 'the Olympics are a waste of money'.

Winning teams from each pool go on to the final series later this year.



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Taking on tough issue of road safety

Editorial

By **TEGAN ARMSTRONG** and **ALI FOY**

ONE of the main issues facing school children today is road safety. Road rules ensure that children, teachers, community members and vehicle operators are safe. But are they working? According to the RTA, in NSW more than a million school students travel to and from school each day by various modes of transport and as pedestrians. Its answer to keeping these children safe was to introduce 40kmh school safety zones.

But even since the introduction of school safety zones, nine children have still been killed in school travel time in NSW while 2531 children aged five to 14 were involved in road-related accidents between 1996 and 2000.

Closer to home, within the past two years, there have been five accidents on the same corner, less than a kilometre from Mount Kanway Public School. So far no students have been injured but what's stopping drivers from going through the school's front fence, which is little more than wood and chicken wire?

So are school safety zones really effective in keeping students safe? In the case of Mount Kanway, it appears not. The times the school zones are enforced are from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm. But these times are inappropriate for

the school because it starts at 9.30am and finishes at 3.30pm.

If a student is 10 minutes late, the school safety zone is no longer operational. The children are then crossing a road that has no pedestrian crossing, traffic lights, adequate drainage or appropriate parking while cars are racing by at speeds of 80 kmh or more.

Students at the school have come up with some solutions of their own to put forward to the local council. These include putting in a pedestrian crossing or speed humps. The president of the school's Parents and Citizens Association suggested the installation of flashing lights on the school zone signs and the principal said "the road needs to be curbed and guttered".

A representative from Port Stephens Council told students that a pedestrian crossing was not suitable in a rural area with a speed limit of 80 kmh and that speed humps were a hindrance to emergency services such as fire engines, ambulance and police. With regards to motorists speeding through the school zone, the representative said "that is a matter for the police".

The council did, however, have some good news for the school. Within four months the council will begin major roadworks in front of the school to reseal and make the road wider and add a parking area to "help during peak drop-off and pick-up times".

While it's not the complete answer to the problems, it is a start. In the meantime, perhaps drivers can be more responsible and take care around school safety zones.



Illustration by **Tegan Armstrong**



NO WASTE: Haley Martin and Eden Williams composting.
— Picture by **Elli Pillidge**

Keeping our country clean

By **LAUREN ANDREWS** and **ELLI PILLIDGE**

SCHOOL students across Australia participated in Keep Australia Beautiful at the end of August.

Education materials company Scholastic encouraged students to participate to score points in the environment classroom challenge.

As part of the challenge, students did a range of environmentally positive activities to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect valuable natural resources.

Scholastic said it was trying to "ensure that our children of future generations are able to experience the unique landscapes and wildlife that we often take for granted. It is a

challenge for all of us".

To help celebrate Keep Australia Beautiful Week, Mount Kanway Public School participated in activities to earn points for their class chart.

The goal was to reach 100 points by the end of the week.

Activities included recycling, composting, holding a zero waste lunch day and running a mobile phone muster.

"I think it's been very successful," principal Mrs Rosemary Stephenson said.

"Each class has achieved their goal on their class chart and the students have learnt to bring in zero waste for lunch and to turn off lights and computer monitors each day."

How to raise money with a big bang

By **ABBY THOMSON** and **LOGAN TEWKESBURY**

MOUNT Kanway Public School hosted its annual fund-raising cracker night in the school grounds at Osterley, near Raymond Terrace, at the end of last month.

Entertainment started at 4pm with the Amazing Jonathan amusing children with his costume and tricks, including riding a unicycle.

He also amazed the children by juggling firesticks and doing magic tricks.

Students from Mount Kanway Public School choir then sang two songs, *Water Under Snow* and *Hot Air Balloon*.

The choir is conducted by Mrs Helen Tuyl and they rehearsed for weeks before cracker night.

A student dance group also performed *Low* by FloRida, with the item choreographed by senior students.

The main attraction, a breathtaking firecracker display, began at 8.30pm.

As is traditional, the first cracker was set off by a student, supervised by an adult.

Cracker night is organised by the school's Parents and Citizens group.

This year the funds raised will go to literacy and technology resources.

Taking break to learn better eating habits

By **JAMIE GROSSER** and **OLIVIA BURG**

TO help establish healthy childhood eating habits that will have benefits throughout life, Mount Kanway Public School teachers and students have joined the Crunch and Sip program.

Every day at 10.30am the aim is to eat an extra piece of fruit or serve of vegetables to promote healthier eating habits and combat childhood obesity.

Experts say that it is

great to start healthy eating habits young, as children who are overweight are more likely to become overweight adults with health problems such as diabetes.

Mount Kanway Public School is only one of many public schools across NSW embracing the Crunch and Sip program.

So far the Crunch and Sip program has been a success, with many students saying "I'm not so hungry in class time now".



HEALTHY SNACKS: James Forth, Sophie Pillidge, Alannah Lawrence and Patrick Foy enjoying their Crunch and Sip break.
— Picture by **Olivia Burg**

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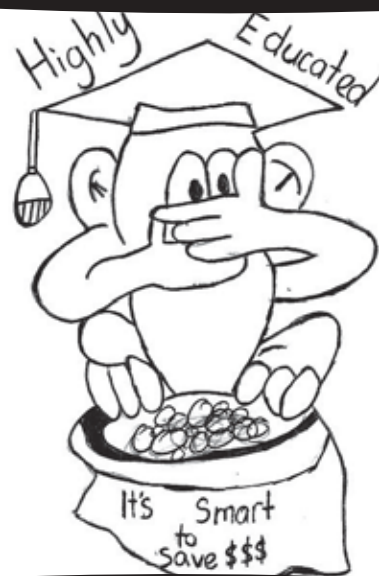
A platypus!

The platypus is found on the banks of waterways on the east of Australia. It has webbed feet, rich brown fur and uses its duck-like bill to hunt for food along the bottom of streams and rivers.



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