



GEILSTON BAY HIGH SCHOOL

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Aboriginality part of school

THERE are 40 indigenous students at Geilston Bay High School and the school is involved in a program called ASSPA (Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness Committee).

The ASSPA program was launched as a joint policy arrangement between the State and Federal Governments in October 1989.

Our principal, Mr Phillip Page, is a member of the present ASSPA committee at the school.

On average there are six students on the committee,

but this number varies depending on the program being implemented.

One of the student committee members, Jodie (grade 9), says she goes to meetings twice a term and is quite involved with what happens in the committee.

"ASSPA provides a lot of scholarships for everyone in the school and also provides money for the school to promote understanding indigenous culture and to get resources for the school," Jodie said.

"Our latest project is a mural in the school's courtyard."

Another member of the

committee, Abbie (grade 10), said she had also benefited from her involvement.

"As a student member of the ASSPA committee, I have learnt about Aboriginal traditions, such as food, and I have had the opportunity to help decide how to spend the funds, and organise activities," Abbie said.

When members of the committee meet they discuss projects such as the mural and renovations to the courtyard, and the updating of resources.

ASSPA has proved to be a very beneficial program for our school and the community.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness Committee student member Jodie, left, parent member Leon Banks and Lyn Dunn.



GOOD START: Cameron having breakfast at school.

Food for thought

GEILSTON Bay High School has implemented a breakfast program, which runs every schoolday morning from 8.15am to 8.35am.

Breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day and should supply much of the day's nutritional needs.

"The breakfast program is designed to provide nutritious food so that students have a good start to the day and are able to concentrate more in class," program coordinator Mrs Colleen Stimpson said.

Between 15 and 24 students attend the breakfast program. They are allowed to eat as much food as they like until 8.35am, when the cooks stop cooking and the school day begins.

Participating students agreed that they like the toast, raisin bread, crumpets, cheese slices and spreads, fruit boxes and also the hot Milo when it is offered.

The students believe they are able to concentrate better in classes as a result of their good breakfasts.

Staying after school is cool

GEILSTON Bay High School's After School Program is run every Thursday from 2.45pm to 4.40pm.

The program gives students an extra opportunity to socialise and learn new skills.

This year the program is being run by two teachers, Ms Lisa McCreary and Ms Colleen Walker.

They are assisted by other staff and volunteers from the Chaplaincy committee, Drug Education Net, Job Pathways, Scripture Union and Fusion.

Activities include craftwork, special events such as the "Pinnacle of Terror", gym-based sports, archery and kayaking.

All of the students who attend are strongly encouraged to stay for the full two hours, but can leave early if they have a note from their parents.

The students and teachers meet at the start of the program and have something to eat and drink, and

then they choose whether they want to stay in the grade area and play table tennis or eightball, do art and craft activities or go to the gym and take part in various sports activities.

They meet again in an hour and make another choice about where they want to go for the remainder of the afternoon.

On average about 45 students attend, drawn from all grades.

Most of the students who attend the After School Program are regular attendees.

Grade 9 students Sarah and Lauren come almost every week. They say they attend the program because "it's fun and cool" and there is "lots of stuff to do".

They both agreed that the best thing about the program was "just hanging out".

This month, the After School Program will have been running for four years. It is still going strong.



CRAFTY: Ashley picks up some tips from Sister Monica at the after school program.

Mediators also organise fun and games

A GROUP of students from grades 8, 9 and 10 at Geilston Bay High were chosen by their teachers to become school mediators last September.

The school mediators are the people other students can

go to if they have any problems. The group also organises competitions and dress-up days every Friday.

Activities have included PJ Day (which involved students coming to school in their pyjamas), the Longest Foot-

ball Kick Competition, Gender Swap (where boys come dressed as girls and girls as boys), treasure hunts for chocolates, toilet-paper wedding dresses, Pass the Parcel and a Guess the Amount of Jellybeans in the Jar contest.

This page was compiled by the students of 9D at Geilston Bay High School with Mr Robin Pople

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