

Public School News by Jane Cozens

Artarmon art show

One of the hottest social events of the term, the annual Artarmon School Art Show, was held on Tuesday 7th July. It was a great success with over 320 entries from students across Kindy to Year 6. The theme "Our Place in Space - Under the Southern Cross" attracted a vast array of fabulous artworks including spaceship sculptures from recycled



Some of the art prize winners
Ken, Sally & Nancy



Art appreciation begins young

goods, intricate pencil drawings of Australian flora and fauna, and dramatic canvas paintings depicting Australian landscapes. Age category prizes and people's choice awards were presented with thanks to Northbridge School of Visual Arts, Artarmon Framing and Oxford Art Supplies. The wonderful organisers - Clare, Margot and Sue - are already planning for bigger and better things next year to coincide with the Artarmon Fair.

Continuing success for our Artarmon school bands

Artarmon School Bands have achieved continuing success in competition in 2009.

McDonalds Performing Arts Challenge:

- Senior Band - First place in Premium Division (4th year in a row)
- Concert Band - First place in Intermediate Division (7th year in a row)
- Jazz Band - 3rd in its Division.

Yamaha Music Festival:

- Senior Band - Gold Award
- Concert Band - Gold Award
- Junior Band - Gold Award
- Jazz Band I - Silver Award
- Jazz Band II - Bronze Award

Is this success something we should all take for granted: a magic recipe that always produces a good result? That's certainly not the case and all involved know that there is no cause for complacency. After all, all of those other primary schools, and in some cases high schools, are trying to take our crown each and every year.

It is also worth remembering that it is not the same young musicians that win each year. Each and every year (yes every year!) new bands must be created and existing ones improved as our children progress from the intimidating Y4 "blow test" on a strange bit of metal or wood called a tuba or clarinet, to the final Y6 "bow" as Senior Band wraps up its performance at the NSW State Band Championships.

Many factors lie behind this success, and need to be continually polished and honed. There is the passion and focus that Artarmon Public School has for its music - this is something that we do well! - the skills, experience and leadership of our band directors, the guidance of the professional musicians that our children are privileged to have as their tutors, the solid support of the school's Principal and staff, the

hard work of a large and very well led parent committee, the support of this year's event sponsor David Young and Associates and, last but not least, the support and encouragement that parents give their children as they progress from their first spluttering starts along the road to becoming accomplished musicians.

There is therefore no cause for complacency, but there is cause to celebrate our success, join in, keep up the hard work, keep polishing, and keep making our community's music program the envy of other schools. And, by the way, participation in the bands is good for all other dimensions of our children's lives, and enriches the lives of all of the adults who become involved.

Real life writers' day

What a great idea. I was fortunate enough to be invited to talk at the Real Life Writers' Day at the school during Education Week last term. We were a group of local residents and workers and spoke to two classes each about how important the art of writing was and how it was used in our varied jobs. Our writers included a fiction writer, media journalists, editors and a producer; representatives from local services and businesses such as the police, the fire brigade, the library, and even our local pharmacy and own school; and "real life writers" from other fields including architecture, building and the IT industry. We all do it!

I found talking to the students very rewarding as they were so inquisitive and interested in what we had to offer and most importantly they seemed to enjoy the sessions: Lauren said "it was a fabulous way to learn, I had no idea that writing was so important in so many different careers", and Natalie especially enjoyed the session explaining how the emergency plan was written "to get out of Sydney in a hurry". The Principal, Louise Green said that the feedback from the whole school community was very positive and she is definitely looking forward to holding this event again. ■

Centenary of the school

Are you a past student, teacher or parent of Artarmon Public School?

ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY in 2010.



The Artarmon Progress Association is researching the history of the school in partnership with the school community and would love you to share any photos or memories you may have of your time there.

There will be lots happening during 2010, we need to get started now.

Please email margot@whichhue.com.au or call 9413 1058

Artarmon PS netballers thank Nick Logan for his generous contribution of their netball competition shirts

