

Primary entry #32: Grahamstown Public School



Grahamstown Grapevine



Kindergarten students Lillie Smith, Logan Callen, Isabelle Ping and Gemma Jones with 007 leaders Harrison Beasley and Tom Beauteament.

Picture: Emily Maytom

Creating the leaders of tomorrow

By HARRISON BEASLEY

THE 007 program gives the year 6 students opportunities to improve their leadership skills for the future. The 007 program also improves the student's confidence and communication skills.

Year 6 students are trained as 007 leaders during the first term of the school year. Mr Mort, the teacher in charge of 007 said, "During training and development, 007 leaders learn to become valued school citizens through showing respect and taking on responsibilities to improve their school's culture."

As a 007 leader, students are responsible for organising structured lunch time activities for all students. These activities include passive play, sandpit, help desk, team sport and ball games. Mr Mort said "All of the students from kindergarten to year 6 have benefited from the introduction of all lunch time activities."

Year 6 student, Tom Beauteament, a current 007 leader said, "The 007 program has helped me to learn to deal with younger kids. I have become more confident to sort out situations that some students are having, such as taking turns, sharing equipment and playing fairly by the rules."

As Tom moves into high school, he believes 007 will help him to be more confident in his future schooling and in getting to know his new peers.

By ZACHARY HUNTER

AT Grahamstown Public School some children have a family member in the Defence Force. Most of them work at Williamtown RAAF base. Established in 1942 it is the second oldest independent RAAF base in the world.

The Williamtown RAAF base makes a considerable contribution to the Hunter community. Children go to local schools, families play in local sporting teams, contribute to the volunteer organisations and community groups.

Grahamstown Public School's connection to the RAAF was highlighted this year as they commemorated 100 years since Australian armed forces landed in Anzac Cove in 1915 was commemorated.

Mrs O' Donoghue, the Defence School Transition Aide at Grahamstown Public School said, "I hope the 100 years commemoration of Anzac was very significant for the children at Grahamstown Public School. I hope they reflected upon the hardship plus the sacrifices made over the last century, not just by those in the military, but communities as a whole."

At Grahamstown Public School, Mrs O' Donoghue's role is to support the children from defence families. According to Mrs O'Donoghue military life can be very challenging with families con-



Jade Scott, Grace Connell, Kaitlyn Widdon, Caitlin Ping and Mrs O'Donoghue holding the wreath made to commemorate 100 years of Anzac.

Picture: Emily Maytom

tinually moving and parental absence due to training exercises or deployment.

Mrs O' Donoghue recognises the difficulties faced by the parents at home looking after the household, and therefore helps families maintain contact with the absent family member by emailing or sending

letters and making craft items for the returning family member. A variety of children's books and comfort bears are lent to families.

As a part of Grahamstown Public School's commemoration, students were able to see and touch items from World War II from the Australian War Memorial box which was

at the school during May.

Every student from kindergarten to year 6 traced a hand which was cut out and used to make a wreath to commemorate 100 years of Anzac. In class, students have been learning historical facts as well as reflecting on personal stories from those who served in various wars.



Choir teachers Mrs Saville and Mrs Brown with some of the students who will performing at the Sydney Opera House.

Picture: Zachary Chambers

Singing all the way to Opera House

By CLAIRE HARRIS

ON October 28, 2015, 36 students from year 2 to 6 will travel south to the Sydney Opera House. They will be performing in the Festival of Choral Music.

Ms Saville, the choir teacher said "Grahamstown Public School auditioned at the end of 2014 for the Opera House Choral Festival of

Music. We were lucky enough to be accepted. It has been over a decade since Grahamstown Public School has participated in this event."

There are 90 schools from all over NSW involved.

They will perform over four nights - Grahamstown will perform on the Wednesday night.

The 2015 repertoire includes 11 songs carefully

selected from a variety of genres including classical, folk, jazz and musical theatre.

Ms Saville said, "students will learn 11 arrangements so they have lots of practice to do. It is a big effort."

Year 6 student Emily who is one of the students participating said, "It is exciting because we get to go to the Opera House and sing in front of lots of people."



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