

Primary entry #4: Abermain Public School



# The Abermain Advancer



LINKS: Graham Kelly, Cheryl-Anne Leggett and Todd Lackey.

Picture: Tiffani Musgrave

## Hall blueprint facilitates a floor upgrade

By BILLIE-LEA REID and KIRSTIN DENT

THERE are fantastic new additions being made to the Abermain Public School environment. The school hall has recently had several upgrades to improve the space for students.

Abermain Public School's hall was constructed in 2008, though school principal Mr Boughton had planned the blueprints in 2006. In late 2012 and early 2013, improvements to the hall have included the laying of a new floor and interior painting.

Funding for the flooring project was achieved through generous sponsorship from the United Mine-workers Federation of Australia and Harvey Norman. The flooring and painting projects were completed by staff families and community members who generously gave up their time.

A ceremony was held to celebrate the additions to the hall on March 28, with Todd Lackey representing Harvey Norman Bennetts Green and Graham Kelly representing United Mineworkers Federation of Australia presented with certificates of appreciation.

Mr Boughton said the hall has been "a great asset to the school".

Future changes are to include installation of insulation in the roof and finishing touches such as a sound system and further lighting.

## Alumni running support

By JACK RICHARDS and SHARNA APPLEYARD

FORMER Abermain Public School student Jacarna Bain-Fenton finished primary school seven years ago, but in many ways it's as if she never left.

As a young student, Jacarna was involved in dancing but after competing in an 800-metre event in year 4 and making it through to the state level competition, she discovered that she had a natural talent for running. Jacarna admits that she was never much of a dancer, so she decided to instead get involved with athletics.

Jacarna started Little Athletics at Kurri Kurri at the age of 11 and started training with a private coach. When she was in year 8, Athletics NSW recognised Jacarna's consistent success at a state level by selecting her to compete in Canada.

She had to raise the funds herself to be able to take this opportunity so Abermain Public School supported their former student through fund-raising to help pay for her trip. As a result of this and other support, Jacarna was able to enjoy competing in two major competitions during her two-week stay in Canada.

To say thank-you to her old primary school for its help, Jacarna donated a trophy to the school and



STRONG CONNECTION: Former Abermain primary school student and running star Jacarna Bain-Fenton, with current student Jack Richards.

Picture: Sharna Appleyard

she comes back each year on presentation day to present it. The trophy is the Sports Encouragement Award and is given to a student who has shown potential in one or more sporting areas, and is intended to encourage students to be healthy and active.

Jacarna is a familiar face around Abermain Public School these

days as she has been involved in the government-sponsored Active After-schools Communities Program in 2011 and 2012. The program is designed to encourage children to be fit and active and to reduce childhood obesity.

Jacarna was still in high school herself at the time, and she came into the primary school and led

free after-school games sessions that were fun for the students.

Now that Jacarna has finished school, she has become a Level 2 coach and is preparing to study remedial massage and sports injuries. Wherever her future plans take her, Abermain Public School hopes she continues to be an important part of the school community.



ON SONG: Stage 1 students enjoying their weekly musical PEGs session.

Picture: Jack Richards

## Enriched learning embraced by all

By EMILY BODLEY and TAYLAH RUSSELL

THIS term, Abermain Public School students were welcomed back with a fun new learning opportunity.

PEGs, or Personal Enrichment Groups, are a weekly activity for all students from years 1 to 6, where students learn about an area of personal interest with other

Students select an activity group they would like to participate in from a wide range of choices such as drama, photography, science and music. Teachers also enjoy presenting a special topic area. PEGs allow students to build new skills and learn about topics of interest while getting to know other students outside their class.

Jade, a year 5 student, believes PEGs are a great

way to improve relationships in the school.

"It is a good way to meet new teachers and kids and everyone learns a new thing every time," she said.

There has also been great feedback from the school community. PEG learning opportunities will continue throughout the year, leading to a presentation day for students to display the skills and knowledge developed.

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