Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter for Fast Forward students! Fast Forward is now running in 23 schools across Greater Western Sydney. This means we have over 700 students in the program!

In March and April induction ceremonies were held at the Penrith, Bankstown, Parramatta and Campbelltown campuses to introduce the 2009 year 9s to the program. It was great to see a lot of families attending the ceremonies. Your family’s support for the next phase of your education will help you to dream big and reach high.

UWS students spoke at three of the events and this gave an insight into life at university compared to life at school. All the students said that believing in yourself and focusing on your goals can lead to great achievements. Words to inspire you to be the best you can be in all that you do! The new year 9s were presented with dictionaries by senior UWS staff who congratulated them on joining the program.

Every Fast Forward student has the potential to achieve great things. Your school’s recognition of this is certainly something to be proud of and we hope that in the years to come you will consider pursuing tertiary education as a way of securing the best opportunities and choices.

The UWS Fast Forward Team is looking forward to working with all our new and continuing students in 2009 and beyond. We trust you will enjoy this newsletter and invite you to contribute articles of interest for future issues.

Regards,
The Fast Forward Team
In the Spotlight

Name: Effie Mellas

Degree: Bachelor or Arts

High School: Chifley College, Mount Druitt Campus, then Chifley College Senior Campus

How did the Fast Forward Program help you in preparing for university?
It helped by giving me an insight into the university culture and showed me what was expected of me if I did further study.

What do you hope to achieve from your studies?
I hope to earn my degree so that I am qualified to teach in secondary schools as an English teacher.

Why did you choose this career path?
I really love reading and learning so I thought this career would be something I’d enjoy doing for a long time. I also had an awesome English teacher that inspired me and I hope that one day I’ll be able to do the same.

What are your best memories of school?
My best memory was graduating with all my friends and with all the people I grew up with.

What is the best thing about being at university?
I really like meeting new people and learning about things that I’ve never even heard of before. My uni timetable isn’t like my 9 am-3 pm high school timetable, which is really good too. I have a lot more free time when I am able to study on my own terms.

What advice do you have for other Fast Forward Students?
Even if you’re not sure what path you want to take after school, leave as many options open as you can. I wasn’t sure whether I wanted to go to uni but I’m glad I still went for a UAI. I wouldn’t trade uni for anything.

Like a Challenge?

The following events and competitions are happening soon:

- **Environ Inspiro! Competition** *(open to government schools only)* Entries due by 3 July 2009. Competition open to all secondary students, to “create a video or DVD to show case their successful student-led school environment projects.” Further information and registration on website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/src

- **Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads** 29 July, 2009 – Olympiad 3 “Challenging Problem Solving Contests for Students up to 14 years.” Olympiads begin in May and run once a month until September. Registration and further details on website: http://www.apsmo.info/APSMO_Home.php

- **Australian National Chemistry Quiz** Held on 30 July 2009 at your school for years 7–12. The Quiz focuses on the national aim “Science is for Everyone.” Further information and registration on website: http://www.raci.org.au/national/events/nationalchemistryquiz.html

- **NSW History Competition** Registration due July. The competition is held for years 9 and 10 students based on the compulsory History syllabus. To be held in September. Website: www.htansw.asn.au/competitions/competitions.html

- **Australian Mathematics Competition** 6 August, 2009 Tests mathematical thinking and organisation, for years 3 to 12. Further information and registration on website: www.amt.edu.au

- **Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads** 19 August, 2009 – Olympiad 4 “Challenging Problem Solving Contests for Students up to 14 years.” Olympiads begin in May and run once a month until September. Registration and further details on website: http://www.apsmo.info/APSMO_Home.php

- **STANSW Young Scientist Awards** Closing date for entries: 28 August, 2009 “Young Scientist offers students from Kindergarten to Year 12 worthwhile incentives to carry out scientific investigations.” Website: www.stansw.asn.au

- **Tournament of the Minds** * Competition held on 29 and 30 August at UWS Bankstown and UWS Penrith. “Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years.” This competition is suitable for all students. Further details on website: www.tom.edu.au

Websites
Check out these websites for weird and wacky facts on the world:

- http://www.stunning-stuff.com/
- http://www.liquidice.co.uk/joke/strangefacts.html

Study Tips for Class Discussions

- Be confident, everyone has an opinion
- List the points that others are making, so that you can respond to them
- If you know the discussion is going to happen, do some background research before class
- Write down a summary of your argument before you begin
- Don’t ramble, keep to the topic
- Respect everyone’s opinion
- Keep an open mind