SCHOOL DANCE
The SRC has organised a school dance with the theme ‘rainbow’ to be held tonight in the school hall. Tickets should have already been purchased from the school office. There will be no tickets available at the door.

I would like to remind parents that students will need to be signed in at the start of the dance before being allowed to enter the hall. Students on uniform or discipline sanctions were not permitted to purchase tickets.

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2013
Entries are now open for the Australia Mathematics Competition.

There are three Secondary divisions with the time allowed being 75 minutes. Students are assessed only against other students in the same school year. The problems are very easy at the start of the paper and become progressively more difficult until the end when they are challenging to the most gifted student. Students of all standards will find a point of challenge. Entry fee is $5.00 payable at the front office.

CHS STATE SWIMMING
At the end of week 10 this term Clifford Taylor, Khan Schroder and Max Carter represented South Coast in the state swimming titles in Sydney. Clifford competed in three events with a best place of 14th, whilst Khan and Max had one event each, also finishing in the ‘teens’. Congratulations to all three on participating at state level. Well done!

K Preston

MARIDA FOR SALE
We have a limited number of the 2012 school magazine ‘Marida’ for sale at the front office. Only $10 a copy!

NAROOMA KINEMA SPECIAL 5-14 APRIL
All sessions of ‘The Host’ will be a flat rate of $10 for youth.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR QUOTA INT OF NAROOMA
Building your resume? Want some experience in interviewing? Good at public speaking? Why not enter the Quota Student of the Year Quest?

What is it? This quest gives students experience in both interviews and public speaking. It targets aspects of grooming and presentation, citizenship, cultural and/or social participation, leadership potential and most importantly, knowledge of current affairs as well as public speaking.

Who is eligible? The Quest is open to all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 living at Tuross and south.

What can you win? The major prize is $200 plus a certificate and trophy. The winner goes on to compete at district level.

When is it? The Quest will be held on Tuesday 25 June at Club Narooma, Princes Highway, Narooma.

How can you enter? From the first week of term 2 nominations forms will be available from the front office, Careers advisor or the English head teacher. More information can be obtained by contacting Rosemary Towers 4476 2614 or Carol Mead 4476 4112. Nominations close Tuesday 4 June 2013.

SOUTH COAST YOUTH’S GOT TALENT
St Mary’s Performing Arts Hall Friday 12th April 6pm – 9pm For young people aged 8 – 21. To register contact Bradley Neal on 0457 759 143.

UPCOMING EVENTS
TONIGHT - Thursday 11 April ~ School Dance
Friday 12 April ~ Last day of Term 1
Wed 1 May ~ First student day of Term 2
Monday 20 May ~ Start of Year 10/11 exams
Monday 20 May ~ P&C Meeting
Friday 24 May ~ Formal Assembly
Monday 27 May ~ Start of Year 7/8/9 exams

HPV VACCINATION
All males who are 14-15 years of age, and who are in Year 10 are eligible to receive the free HPV vaccine at their GP during 2013 only. Only Year 9 boys are being vaccinated at schools.

If you wish for your son to receive the free HPV vaccinations, they must have commenced the course before they turn 16 years and have completed the three dose course before the end of 2013.

It is important when making the GP appointment the receptionist or nurse is informed of the reason for the visit and sufficient time is allowed (at least three working days) for the vaccine to be ordered and delivered to the GP.

If you would like more information about the HPV Vaccine you can visit the HPV Vaccination website or contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

STEWART HOUSE
Stewart House donation drive envelopes for 2013 have been received and are available from the front office. Donations support the 1,800 children who attend Stewart House each year from public schools across NSW and the ACT. We are being encouraged to place a $2 coin or equivalent in the envelope, complete entry details on the back and return it to school to be eligible for the draw to win a $4,000 holiday to your destination of choice.

Entries must be received by Stewart House Day 10 May 2013 with the drawing taking place on 24 May 2013. The winner will be notified by telephone and mail. Information and conditions www.stewarthouse.org.au or phone 9938 3021.

UNDER OUR SKIN: A Health Care Nightmare
The award-winning documentary, Under Our Skin, exposes the hidden story of Lyme disease. Under Our Skin: A Health Care Nightmare will be screening at Bermagui Centre on Friday 10 May 2013 at 7pm. A light supper will be served.
As I look back over the 1st school term of 2013, I am troubled by the amount of times I’ve heard about students threatening each other and engaging in physical fights on school grounds. I think there is some confusion amongst students and parents about the definition of terms such as ‘assault’, ‘threat’, ‘bullying’ and ‘self defence’. Unfortunately, this confusion is resulting in students being injured, suspended from school and getting into trouble with Police.

I have often heard parents telling their children to ‘stand up to bullies’, to ‘not get pushed around’. I’ve even been told by parents that they have given their son or daughter ‘permission’ to hit a kid who is ‘picking on them’ or who has ‘hit them first’. This attitude really concerns me, because if your child does act on your advice, they are more than likely breaking the law, and will have to deal with such consequences as being charged or given a youth caution and being suspended from school. Not to mention any physical and or psychological injuries they may inflict upon their victim.

The word ‘Assault’ is commonly used and creates a picture in your mind of a person striking another person physically, whether with a hand, a fist or an implement of some kind. An assault is any act where a person intentionally or recklessly causes another person to fear immediate and unlawful violence. Under this definition, you don’t actually have to strike (punch, hit, kick etc) a person to be guilty of assault – just threatening to may be enough.

Students will often say that they have struck someone in ‘self-defence’, because ‘he hit me first!’, or ‘she started it!’ Basically speaking, the term ‘Self-defence’ only explains a person’s conduct if the person believes their conduct is necessary to defend themselves in order to prevent or stop an assault, and there is no other way of stopping it. This means, that if you are able to walk or run away from the situation, or talk your way out of trouble, there is no need to use physical force to stop it. If, in this situation you do resort to using force, you must only use as much force as is necessary to stop the attack. Any force used by you above what is reasonable, would be considered to be assault, and not self-defence, and you may be charged for your actions regardless of who threw the first punch.

Another point I want you to be aware of is that offences which involve violence, stalking, harassment or intimidation of a student or member of staff on school grounds, carry a harsher penalty than if they had occurred off school grounds. The reason for this is that we need schools to be safe places – students have a right to come to school without the fear of being assaulted and Teachers and school staff have a right to a safe work environment. A person found guilty of a common assault, (which is the lowest form of assault) would be liable to 5 years imprisonment if the assault were to occur on school grounds. This means the penalty is increased by 3 years because the offence occurred on school grounds. So, if you needed any incentive to keep violence and intimidation out of schools, there you have it!

Senior Constable Rebecca Lanyon – School Liaison Police Officer