

Term 1 in Year 7/8



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YOUR YEAR 7 & 8 NEWSPAPER

Since 2011

Technology at Hillmorton High School



Science

Every Thursday afternoon, at Hillmorton Technology, Group 1 experience Science. Our teacher is the school biologist, Mr Scott, who is really cool. Recently at Science we've been doing heating with Bunsen burners, metal disintegrating in acid, disappearing letters, measuring temperatures in liquid and body heat and making plaster scene shapes to see what shape took the longest to go down a beaker full of water.

Lately we've been using awesome microscopes to see what newspaper looked like when magnified. It was quite interesting seeing that newspaper pictures are just lots of little dots spread out together.

Science is really interesting; seeing things burn away just like that and letters disappearing in the blink of an eye. Overall science is really cool and we are happy that we have this option.

Ethan and Jessica

Cooking

Cooking class at Hillmorton High technology is really cool. Due to the earthquake we had to skip two cooking lessons. On the first week back after the earthquake we had to make "sculptures" out of food. My group made a campsite sort of thing. Other groups made things like people, boats, gardens, houses, and even vegetable rainbows. Once the water was cleaner (although we still had to boil it), we were able to cook food. The Year 8s made spicy apple muffins. The Year 7s made pinwheel scones. They were delicious. Our cooking teacher, Miss Blackwell, is a very good cook and we think we are very lucky to have her as our cooking teacher.

Before we cook we have to sanitize our desks, put on our aprons, wash our hands, and grab a recipe. Then we get out our equipment ready for cooking. Before the water was purified we had to get out two large pots and boil our water before we could cook. The main things we use are the oven, the microwave, knives, and chopping boards.

We love cooking and want to do it all year.

Cameron and Dean

Physical Education

On Thursday afternoons all Year 8 children head down to Hillmorton High School for technology. One group does woodwork and physical education (P.E). In P.E they play lots of exciting and fun sporting games like Hillmorton's own five bat game. It has taken the dodging of dodge ball and the racquet skills of tennis and put them together, to create a game that helps advance your hand eye coordination skills. Testing was a big hit with all the children and so was the beep test where they all got "Achieved".

Jess and Rosie

♥ Wood work ♥

Our teacher is Mr Nixon. When we first come in he makes sure we have a pencil each. Once he's made sure we have got them, we gather up the front and he explains a new step. Once we've seen it we go in twos to our table and get to work.

At the moment, we're working on our frames. We have to plane, measure and chisel. It is all hard work but in the end we are very proud of our work.

There are many different tools and machinery that we have learnt to use throughout woodwork. One of the best tools that Mr Nixon carries with him is his massive JUMBO Pencil! ☺

Brittany & Anna



Electronics

For the first 6 months of 2011 Year 8 Technology Group 3 have been learning about electronics. So far we have built an electronic buzz wire game and used a Van de Graff, which is a big ball that circulates friction electricity from a belt spinning round. When you touch the Van de Graff, your hair goes up and when you touch someone else, when you are still touching it, you give them an electric SHOCK!

The buzz wire game we built, is constructed from wires, a buzzer, a battery and a small tissue box or shoe box. We had to make our own wire design and connect it all up so all we need to get is a battery and it will work. When you touch the wire shape with the wire loop the buzzer beeps until you take the loop off. Tash had a headache on the bus back to school because of all the buzzing noises.

At the end of every lesson Mr. Liu shows us some funny videos and pictures on YouTube. All of us in Group 3 love electronics and can't wait for the next lesson to find out what we are making this time.

Jordan and Flynn



The Dance Experience

Group 1 has been going to dance for the past four weeks. Our teacher, Miss Stapleton, has been teaching us all about dance and how we can co-operate together as a team. Miss Stapleton has been away for 2 weeks, but now she is back. When she was away we had a student teacher, who was very on the ball, and we had a lot fun with her, making group routines.

At dance we have chance cards. We earn them by following the rules, being a team player and contributing our ideas. When we get given chance cards after the dance lesson we put our chance cards in a red box with our names on them. Then we wait until the end of the week for the teacher to draw out someone's name to get a prize.

In dancing we do a variety of activities including a warm up dance that the whole group enjoys, 'Mr Bobolena'. Last week we were lucky to have a visitor from the Auckland School of Dance. His name was Nick. He is a professor and he taught us about the different ways of getting around. He had a very creative mind and we did very energetic activities.

In Week 2 we were given a task to get into groups of 4. We got given a card that said we have to come up with a starting position including everyone's ideas. The dance at technology is very interesting because we get put into groups with people who we might not have worked with before.

Dancing is fun for boys and girls because we are not dancing to just jazz or hip-hop, we are just being normal kids, who enjoy dancing and like to have fun. We were all surprised at how much the boys enjoyed dancing, and the boys won the first task! So, as you can see, dancing at Hillmorton is made for everyone. ☺

Jade and Alicia

Sewing

This term a third of the Year 7 and 8 students are doing sewing as part of technology at Hillmorton High School.

The Year 7s are creating a pillow case. First, they have to plan their design and learn how to use a sewing machine. Then they draw their design on a piece of fabric, ready to paint. After that, they sew the backs on. They end up with their very own cushion cover.

The Year 8s are making satchel bags. They also have to plan their design for the main section of the bag. They draw it on to the fabric and paint it. Next they learn how to sew the fabric into a bag. To finish, they sew on the handle. The finished product is a creative looking bag.

Both year groups have heaps of fun at sewing and learn lots of new skills.

Brylea and Samara

Our Thursday Programme at Halswell School

Robotics

During Term 1, the Year 7/8 students have been doing robotics. At robotics we learn how to programme a robot to do different tasks, like making a figure of eight, a point turn and a square. We connect a cable from the computer to the robot and use a site called "Mindstorm" to programme the robot.

These amazing robots can do awesome things. One of the challenges that people enjoyed was the "Parking Bay" challenge. We had to make it turn for a number of seconds and then reverse for a number of seconds, without hitting the (chalk) wall.

You can put a sound sensor on the robot and programme it to stop when you clap or make a loud noise. You can also put a light sensor to follow a line that you draw on the ground. The robot has three wheels, two for going forward and backwards, and one for turning.

This new technology has been enjoyed by all of the children in the Year 7/8 classes, and we all would like to have one!

Josh and Shaun



Drama

Every Thursday before or after technology we do drama (unless, of course, there is an earthquake!). In drama we are working towards performing awesome radio plays. We gather up sticks, lego bits, skateboards and anything else that makes sound so that we can experiment with sound effects. In drama we are building up skills such as reading with expression and being creative. Our plays will hopefully be played on our new radio station next term.

Regan

Science at School

Every Thursday, the Year 7/8 Learning Team goes to technology, either in the morning or in the afternoon. While the Year 7s are at technology, the Year 8s do some fun activities with the teachers, such as science. The year groups then swap over in the afternoon.

Earlier this term, we looked at solutions and suspensions. We poured some water into a measuring flask and then added a little amount of sugar, which was in a separate measuring flask. We added a little bit at a time and then had to stir the water, until all the sugar had dissolved. This is called a solution. Then we had to weigh the measuring flask with the sugar and see how many grams of sugar we had dissolved. We all started with around ninety- five grams of sugar.

The aim of the lesson was to reach the saturation point with the water and sugar. Once we had made a saturated solution we used a methylated spirits burner to see if we could dissolve the remaining sugar.

Lucy & Emma ☺



Choir and Vocal Group

On Tuesday morning the Halswell School Senior Choir has a practice at 8:30am. This term we have practised the songs "Cripple Creek" by Emily Crocker, "Ma Te Mahi Ka Ora" by John Phillips, "Music of the Day" by Peter Comber and "Razzle Dazzle" by Fred Ebb. Our teachers are Mrs White and Mrs. Nuthall. We were also very lucky, this term, to have Mrs Norquay come in and teach us.

The vocal group practice is at 2pm on Tuesday. We get treats if we are there ON time!!! ☺ The songs we are working on now are "E Pari Ra" by P.H.Tomoana and "Good Night My Angel" by Billy Joel. Our teacher is Mrs. White. EVERY ONE ENJOYS CHOIR AND VOCAL GROUP, IT'S LOTS OF FUN!

Madeline & Emma



Halswell School Senior Choir

Spanish

Hola! Room 12 has been the home of Spanish for all the Year 7/8 classes on Thursdays.

We have been learning how to greet people in Spanish for any age. "*Buenas Tardes Señor!*" We have also learnt all about this amazing country. They have 32.7million more people than us...that is a lot! Their capital city, Madrid, has 3 million people who live there. Their favourite sport is football.

We learn a lot in Spanish. We play cool games and we get to speak to our parents and they have no idea what we are saying! "*Buenos dias Mama!*" We also get to teach other people things that we have learnt. I have learnt that Spain has 236,102 square kilometres more land than us. Spain has 504, 782 and New Zealand has 268, 680 square kilometres.

We have learnt a lot in Spanish and we hope you have learnt something too! *Hasta la vista!!*

Kelsey and Ollie

Coming up next term...
Hagley Sport
Our new radio station
GPS scavenger hunts