

ASPIRE Intern Blog #2

Another two big weeks down in ASPIRE land, with our yearly Theatre Sports event and all drama and vocal auditions officially done and dusted. Big congrats to all the students who auditioned over the last fortnight, I know how daunting it can be, but you all got up there and smashed it! The team and myself were very proud.

Our annual Theatre Sports day was one for the history books, our focus this year being on failing spectacularly. I myself had the pleasure this year of being a part of the judging panel, alongside ASPIRE's very own Anna Kerrigan, and Artistic Director of local theatre company HER Productions, Charlotte De Wit. I also was given the responsibility of sourcing the props, writing the papers, commercial items and scenarios for each round, and I did not go easy on you! I did, however, have a LOT of fun writing these, almost too much fun. Especially the papers, I snuck so many deep cut references in there and they made me giggle a lot during the games. Colour me impressed by the improv chops on the students in this diocese, the day went off without a hitch, and each failure was more extravagant than the last. The energy in the room was the most supportive and positive I've ever seen it, and it shone through in the performances how comfortable everyone felt together. Congratulations as well to St Joseph's Lochinvar and Catherine Macauley College, Medowie, for taking out the highly coveted Theatre Sports trophy as our overall winners for the year.

Work is also well and truly underway for the Newcastle-Hunter Combined Schools ANZAC Commemorative Event, with our Drama ensemble and student sub-committee almost ready to rehearse together! This year's theme is 'Women in War – Their Australian Story', where we are delving into the varied experiences of our strong and noble women who served in WWI and WWII, as well as those who are still currently serving today. I am especially excited for this year's theme, and looking forward to seeing the translation of these stories to the stage.

That about concludes the wrap-up for this fortnight. The deadlines are approaching quickly for submissions to the Scriptwriting and Songwriting Competitions. These are both extremely valuable opportunities for young creatives to workshop and showcase your work at a grander scale, so make sure you submit something, literally anything is better than nothing!

A proud and eager,
Daniel

