

RESIDENTIAL REPORT

EDITION #1

SEMESTER 1 2015

AURORA STUDENTS INVADe SYDNEY CITY

OTTER TAGS ALONG FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Aurora's latest residential was open to all species – including Leshi, the river otter who tagged along with Year 10 this residential. Leshi joined the Aurora students on the "Party Bus" and was an enthusiastic spectator in the sports events – he was unable to attend the Sydney excursion, but he made sure to turn up to all his classes.



NEW DEVICES A HIT WITH YEARS 9 AND 10

Aurora students in Years 9 and 10 were very excited when they received their long-awaited Windows 8 devices this residential!

The devices came with a detachable keyboard, allowing them to change between tablet and keyboard at a whim, they also included free Microsoft Office and allowed for all kinds of new programs to be installed.

There were initially some problems connecting to the internet, but these have now been resolved, so all students can now happily enjoy these new devices!

(Except those who managed to lose their wireless mouse's USB connector in a seat belt hole... WHY UNIVERSE WHY?)

Central Sydney was greeted by some unusual visitors on Tuesday – the students from Aurora college! The students began their journey through the city with recess in Hyde Park – where the teachers were forced to intervene to prevent them wrangling pigeons.

Following this, they travelled to the museum, where they saw many amazing things, including a fish bigger than a person, feeding time for live frogs and a recreation of Australia's terrifying "prehistoric demon bird of doom". Unfortunately, the time at the museum was cut short, so the students didn't get a chance to see the dinosaurs.

After lunch overlooking the harbour bridge, the students moved on to a cruise, where they learned about the culture of the indigenous tribes that lived in the Sydney area for thousands of years – some even got a chance to join in a traditional dance.

Finally, after a busy day, the students moved on to Sydney observatory, where they were introduced to the history of Australian astronomy, the amazing computer program "Stellarium" and some very tasty pizzas!



PAPER PLANES REVIEW ★★★★★

Students were taken via party bus to a private screening of *Paper Planes*, but was all this effort worth it? Well the short answer is "yes", and the long answer is "HECK YES"!

The 2015 Australian movie, directed by Robert Connolly, had a lot to live up to. 2014 was basically the golden age of movies in the last 10 years, amazing films like *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, *The LEGO Movie*, *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Interstellar* were all released in the same year.

But believe it or not, the movie lived up to these expectations. With a touching story about a rural Australian boy with a unique talent, this movie hit close to the hearts of everyone in Aurora, and with great pacing and a good sense of humor, *Paper Planes* got nearly everything right.

The only complaint that can be made about the movie is it seemed a little too predictable, but maybe that's just because it was realized in the same year as so many other great movies, and our standards are just really high. At any rate, it's well worth seeing, and much better than *Frozen*! (Seriously people, let *Frozen* go! There have been so many better movies since!)



OTTERS NEED YOU!

BREAKING NEWS! Some students in Aurora seem to believe Dolphins are better than Otters! I know, it's otterly insane! We must put a stop to this and educate everyone about how Otters are the best! Otters are cuter, more playful, nicer to each other, and they can walk on land as well as swim, and take selfies! Edit your info in class to put "otter" somewhere in your username and stand up for the most awesome and adorable water dwelling mammal – the River Otter!

EXPERIMENTAL SPORTS A BIG SUCCESS



The many students at Aurora College took part in a series of strange new sports events based on the television program *Survivor*.

While I was only a photographer and can't report on how fun the reports were to participate in (I can't throw a ball straight so that's probably a good thing), the events

were definitely fun to watch!

Students ate chocolate bars covered in vegemite, threw pink balls at each other and took part in a fashion contest where Abdellah's amazing costume stole the show.

Unfortunately, the last part of the event was not recorded, due to many technical errors including all 3 cameras running out of battery and a cameraman cutting his leg open on a thorn bush (don't ask), but the event was nonetheless a big success!

OPINION PIECE: XSEL LEGACY LIVES ON

As many of you know, Aurora was inspired by the Xsel program, a virtual selective school for the central west, set up by the dedicated work of Pauline Freeburn, Barbara Bannister and many other hard-working teachers.

Some of the teachers and many of the students from Xsel continued on into Aurora, and were present for the first Aurora residential school, so was it as good as Xsel's residentials?

Well, for most, the answer was a resounding "yes". Filled with special events and informative classes, Aurora's first residential school captured the sense of inclusion and love of learning that defined Xsel.

In fact, the Aurora residential school was pretty much perfect, the only extra thing it needed was more others... maybe we could visit Taronga Zoo next time? *hint hint*



FOOD AT HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE A HIT WITH AURORA STUDENTS

Ask any high school student what the most important thing about any event is and they will say "the food", so what did the students think of the food available at Hurlstone Agriculture College's dining hall?

The first thing students noticed was the sheer variety of food available – fruits they'd never heard of, every flavor of yoghurt imaginable, it was great! But it wasn't a case of quantity over quality, in fact it was anything but! Thanks to the efforts of the Holston staff, the food was some of the best the students and teachers had ever tasted. I'm pretty sure that for the food alone, everyone is hoping they'll go back there!

CHALLENGE FOR CHOCOLATES – IT'S ON!

It's official! On camera, the Aurora teachers promised that anyone who still has the card with their e-book codes on it next term will be rewarded with chocolate!

Will any students pass the challenge, or will the teachers be getting too much sugar for their own good? We'll report back in Semester 2 to find out!

SCIENCE TEACHERS "ENLIGHTEN" YEAR 10

Aurora students performed some fascinating experiments over the course of the residential school, but the one that really out-shone the competition was Year 10's experiment on refraction of light.

Students focused beams of light through prisms in a dark room, and though the point of the experiment was officially practicing for the assignment, what was really exciting about it is it looked really cool!



PUBLIC OUTRAGE AFTER MR HOWARD "LEAVES SMURFS TO DIE"

Mr Howard is the Maths teacher famous for his goats and famous for his puns – but could he now be infamous for watching smurfs die and doing nothing about it?

In an ordinary Maths class, Mr Howard shocked his Year 10 students, claiming to have witnessed the death of hundreds of smurfs on live security camera and done nothing to help.

Whether this is true is yet to be confirmed, but unlike his many Maths puns, this is no laughing matter.