AURORA STUDENTS INVADE SYDNEY CITY

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!

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!

(Please ignore those who managed to lose their wireless mouse’s USB connector in a seat belt hole… WHY ADVERSE WHY?!)
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 vegeemite, 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!

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!

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 residential?

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 otters... maybe we could visit Taronga Zoo next time? *hint hint*

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.