Deanne dons principal hat for a day

A Newman high school student was given a behind-the-scenes insight into how a school runs last week.

On Wednesday, Year 12 student Deanne Heinrich was Newman Senior High School’s student principal for the day, shadowing principal Milanna Heberle for a number of meetings with community members, staff and students.

Ms Heberle said the Principals Association of Australia initiative was a great opportunity to engage with students.

“It’s a great opportunity for me to sit down and chat with some of our students … because it is easy to get caught up in the admin side of my role,” she said.

“For students, school is about sitting in classrooms, but there are so many things that are happening behind the scenes.”

For Ms Heberle, a highlight of the day was listening to students speak about the teachers they liked.

“One of the teachers who they mentioned is very well organised and has very high standards,” Ms Heberle said.

“It’s wonderful to hear that the students recognise that.”

Deanne was selected to take on the role of school leader after embodying the school’s values, known as The Newman Way.

Dressed in attire a principal would wear, Deanne said she was nervous when she first arrived at school for the day.

“I’ve really enjoyed my day … I think a student’s perspective does help (staff) to realise underlying issues that may otherwise not be noticed,” she said.

“When you think about what a principal does … you don’t think about the smaller things like how each bill is paid and how the budgets are done.

“It’s been pretty eye-opening. I got a real inside look at what it is like to be part of meetings and other things.”

Rather fittingly, Deanne hopes to be an early childhood or art teacher once she finishes school.

Students put best foot forward for national campaign

Students in Port Hedland let their feet do the talking during National Walk Safely to School Day activities.

About 50 students from St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School were joined by school staff and parents for a walk from the Port Hedland Yacht Club to the school grounds last month.

It was the second year the school had participated in the national initiative, with this year’s contingent of students mostly from primary to Year 2.

National Walk Safely to School Day aimed to encourage parents and students to stay active by engaging in physical activity every day while also teaching youngsters to be aware of road safety.

After their walk, students were treated to a breakfast of cereal, food and juice provided by the school’s Parents and Friends Association. St Cecilia’s sports and house co-ordinator Lyn Poharama said the event was a great success.

She said with winter having arrived in Hedland, bringing with it cooler weather, it was a great time of the year for parents and children to leave the car at home and walk to school together.

Take career to new level

The Pilbara Institute is encouraging hospitality workers to advance their career potential with certificates at the South Hedland campus.

Institute student Courtney McDonnell started her career behind a sink washing dishes, but aspiring to achieve more, she dedicated herself to additional studies at the institute.

Having enrolled in a certificate II in kitchen operations, Ms McDonnell took advantage of the resources available at the South Hedland campus.

“It gave me the confidence and credibility to be recognised as a professional in the work I do,” she said.

“I would also like to add that the lecturers at the Pilbara Institute are absolutely fabulous.”

Ms McDonnell completed her course late last year and said it helped her achieve more in her job.

“Having recently moved to Geraldton, I’m very grateful for the kick-start the Pilbara Institute gave me,” she said.

“Now plan to continue in the hospitality industry, working my way up to hospitality management.”

The Pilbara Institute offers a range of hospitality certificates, including certificate I in hospitality certificate II in commercial cookery and certificate II in kitchen operations.

For more information on the Pilbara Institute and courses available, visit www.pilbara.wa.edu.au or call 1300 304 244.