



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrongo 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 8

December 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the year draws to a close, I can hear our entire community breathe a sigh of relief. Everyone is exhausted and every now and then, still pinching themselves about the year that seemed to drag on forever and at the same time, is suddenly over with the blink of an eye.

The staff at Birrongo Girls High School have given everything and more to support their community.

The grit, commitment, skill and attention to detail, combined with passion for improving student outcomes and ultimately, futures, places them as some of the finest educators and support staff in the country. I am proud to lead them. I am privileged to work with them. We are all very lucky.

### Farewell to Staff

It is sad for us to say goodbye to some of our wonderful team members.

As 2021 concludes, we farewell the following staff:

Mr Demis Aravena  
Ms Cassie Bartels  
Ms Annie Zou  
Mr Phil Farrugia  
Ms Georgette Athos  
Ms Mel Rippon

Each one of them has made a difference to the lives and outcomes of students and for this, we are filled with gratitude. We thank them for their service to our school and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

### Parents and Carers

I would also like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our parents, particularly those who have worked so hard alongside us, clear in the understanding that we share the same values and purpose- preparing their child to be successful at school and most importantly, in their life after school. This involves developing the whole person- not just their knowledge, skills and understanding. Every moment is a teachable moment- where we unpack situations and choices to understand what is necessary to grow and move beyond making the same mistakes repeatedly. Integrity, as you know, is a core value and we expect it to be reflected in all student conduct. Parents who place themselves in ongoing conflict with the school do not find the

same positive results and student outcomes. Parents and the school need to be on the same page and supporting each other- so that the student knows they cannot distract from the core focus- high expectations in focusing on learning and behaviour.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Rawaa Bassal, our P and C President for 2021. She has been a positive, caring and supportive leader of our parent community – accessible to all who contact her and always looking for opportunities to assist and contribute, despite her own responsibilities. I would also like to thank Mrs Selina Taulapapa, Mrs Dania Jumah and Mrs Kayla Doyle, who comprised the senior executive of the P and C alongside Mrs Bassal. We are also very appreciative of the rest of the P and C membership and our regular attendees. No matter how busy we are, we always look forward to our meetings with you all.

### Communication to Parents and Carers

More than ever, being able to communicate quickly and effectively to our parent and carer community is vital. Please ensure that you provide correct mobile phone numbers and email addresses upon return to school in 2022. This will further aid the rest of our communication platforms, including the Parent Portal. It means you can access student attendance records and academic reports whenever you need. This is in addition to correspondence and permission notes from the school. It also means that if we ever find ourselves in a COVID-like lockdown once again, we are able to send out immediate correspondence, tailored specific to you and your context. This is in addition to our encouragement that you join our Facebook and Instagram pages, download the school's SkoolBag App and refer to the school's website regularly. As soon as school commences in 2022, we will initiate an additional email collection drive.

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## **2021 Inaugural Mother Daughter High Tea**

On Wednesday 15 December, we assembled at the Conca D'oro Renoir Room to celebrate Year 12 and their mothers. It was a delightful morning filled with precious moments and from this a new tradition has been born. We look forward to celebrating in early next year with the Class of 2022 and their mothers. Get your outfits ready!!

## **COVID safety: Following Dr Chant's advice**

We have managed in the face of all odds to keep our school community safe onsite throughout this very difficult time. We will continue to do so. The secret to our success has been strict rules and protocols about safety and hygiene. We are committed to sustaining this within the parameters of DoE expectations. Mask wearing will continue to be expected onsite until otherwise decreed by the DoE. Students with contagious/ COVID-like symptoms should under NO CIRCUMSTANCES attend school. We encourage all members of our community to wear masks over summer in shopping centres and crowded venues and isolate when required.

## **Season's Greetings and Holiday Well Wishes**

On behalf of the entire school staff I wish our community a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and wonderful summer filled with joy and relaxation. We also hope you all stay safe and look forward to reuniting with you in 2022. Our social media sites and Google classrooms will provide updated information about anything relevant to school return, practices and processes.

Warmest regards,

Zena Dabaja

**Principal**

## **REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS**

As the school year for 2021 draws to a close, it is a great time to reflect on personal and whole school community achievements especially this year with the many challenges we have all faced.

Foremost is our school commitment to the delivery of Quality Teaching. Birrong Girls High School teachers take enormous pride in the quality of the teaching which occurs in each classroom. Our ongoing dedication towards the Quality Teaching Framework supported by the partnership with Newcastle University continues to consolidate the effectiveness of lesson delivery, assessment of student understanding and assists teachers to improve the value of teacher feedback to students and parents.

In addition to this, during the year, students of Birrong Girls High School have been honoured and rewarded for their continued application to their learning in a variety of community forums.

Recently, a number of our students were commended for their drive and dedication towards school service, school achievements, leadership and commitment to community contributions through the Canterbury Bankstown Youth Awards.

Leadership Awards - Daliya El Helou (Finalist) and Danielle Rifahi (Finalist)

Academic Awards - Hajara Musthafa (Finalist)

Community Involvement Awards – Sarah Ali (Finalist)

Youth Inspiration - Danielle Rifahi (Winner) and Eve Park (Finalist)

Year 7 students took part in a STEAM (Science, Technology and Visual Arts) Project which centred around forces and a rollercoaster design. The Numeracy Activity Day supported their understanding and application of numeracy themes in a variety of enjoyable activities around shopping, travel and adventure. The intention of the day is to enable students to solve real world problems using their numeracy skills whilst having fun.

Year 8 students have finalised their elective subjects for 2022–2023. Our elective courses enable us to tailor students' pattern of study to their areas of interest. They choose courses they like and are good at or that they want to learn more about. These courses begin in Year 9 and continue throughout Year 10.

Most Year 9 students returned to school in a positive way. It is pleasing to see students complying with our new ways of being at school by ensuring they wear masks inside rooms and hallways; cleaning their work spaces without question; and wearing correct sports uniform on days they have practical classes. They cooperate by carrying benches to the oval in the morning and returning them to the locked area at the end of lunch. Some Year 9 students bring mats or rugs to sit on. It is quite a pleasant, picnic-like atmosphere on the oval during recess and lunch breaks.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students participated in a reading and numeracy Check-in assessment during Weeks 7 and 8. The Check-in assessment is a NSW Department of Education online reading and numeracy assessment available to support schools to assess and monitor student learning. The assessments will supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

Year 10 students remained hard at work as they completed 'All My Own Work', a mandatory NESA requirement for all students entering Year 11. Year 10 students concluded the year with leadership training to be able to sign up and participate as a Year 11 mentor in 2022 through the Peer Support Training program.

Year 11 are embarking on the first term of their HSC year and preparing for the first round of assessment tasks for Year 12. We are excited to be back to face-to-face learning and encourage students to make the most of their lessons to show initiative in learning, participate in activities and discussions, as well as ask questions and seek support when they need it. Students need to make sure that they start their Year 12 year, the way they intend to finish. Our new Senior Study Centre is now operating for all study periods and is manned by teachers who are working to guide students in their organisation and learning. The Year 12 Mentor program has also started, where students are matched with a trusted teacher who will continue to work closely with them throughout 2022.

Year 12 have officially signed out of school and attended their formal on 16 December. The night was a celebration of the end of this chapter in their lives. We wish them all the very best with their future endeavours. The HSC results and ATAR notifications will be released in January and we look forward to hearing from the girls regarding their future pathway options. A Year 12 event took place on Thursday 9 December where the girls and their teachers came together and had some fun and celebration. The day involved a picnic lunch, a show (Birrong's Got Talent) and some other surprises.

A reminder about the correct school shoe required by the Birrong Girls Uniform policy. It must be a hard, leather school shoe with a solid heel. Runner or soft leather type shoes are not acceptable. Please note the poster included in this bulletin.

To all our families have a safe holiday break.

Ms George, Ms Cross, Ms Andrews and Ms Park  
**Deputy Principals**

## Approved Footwear for Birrong Girls High School



## CAREERS NEWS

### Australian Jobs 2021

Australian Jobs gives an overview of trends in the Australian labour market. It is designed to support students, career advisers, job seekers, those considering future training and work and people interested in labour market issues. Australian Jobs will step you through all aspects of the labour market. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the labour market and there is now more competition for jobs. It is more important than ever to understand what employers are looking for and to understand the labour market you're moving into.

<https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/australian-jobs>

### AWS Family Tech Series

AWS in Communities has recently released their **complimentary** Family Tech Series that enables families to participate in enjoyable and educational online STEM workshops and presentations at their own pace.

Family Tech Series is a program that seeks to inspire young future tech builders as they engage with their families in a fun and educational way. Families and communities around the world are invited to discover and play with the latest tech concepts, learn from technology subject matter experts, and learn more about cloud computing, and career paths in technology. The event offers a wide range of exciting content including tech keynote presentations, workshops and demos, a learning hub with educational videos for all ages and a careers corner. Something for everyone!

<http://www.cvent.com/events/aws-family-tech-series/event-summary-c640689e2a0b444ca9700749078953fd.aspx?tw=95-8E-44-B4-18-32-4A-12-9E-32-FC-AA-0B-D7-B1-31&lang=en>

Kirby Wailes  
**Careers Adviser**

## JUMP ROPE FOR HEART 2021

Heart Foundation  
*Jump Rope for Heart*



Year 8 fundraised throughout Term 1 for the Heart Foundation's "Jump Rope for Heart". While the whole year group jump off was cancelled, students still participated in a series of skipping lessons in their PE lessons. They learnt a range of fun skipping skills and tricks, while staying healthy and active.

Jump Rope for Heart raises vital funds for the Heart Foundation. Money raised contributes to heart research into the cause of Heart Disease,

Procedures to diagnose Heart Disease, and ways that Australian's can prevent the onset of Cardiovascular Disease.

A special mention must go to three students who raised significant amounts for the Heart Foundation. Eve in 8B raised \$672.28, Makayla in 8R raised \$234, and Sonya in 8B raised \$64.22. These valuable contributions have been gratefully received by the Heart Foundation, and will go to improving the health of all Australians.



Eve



Makayla



Sonya

By: PDHPE Faculty

### SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR 2022 TRAVEL

All students must keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2022. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1.

If the student already has a School Opal card and is changing schools or home address, you will need to update their School Opal card for the new school year at: **transportsw.info**

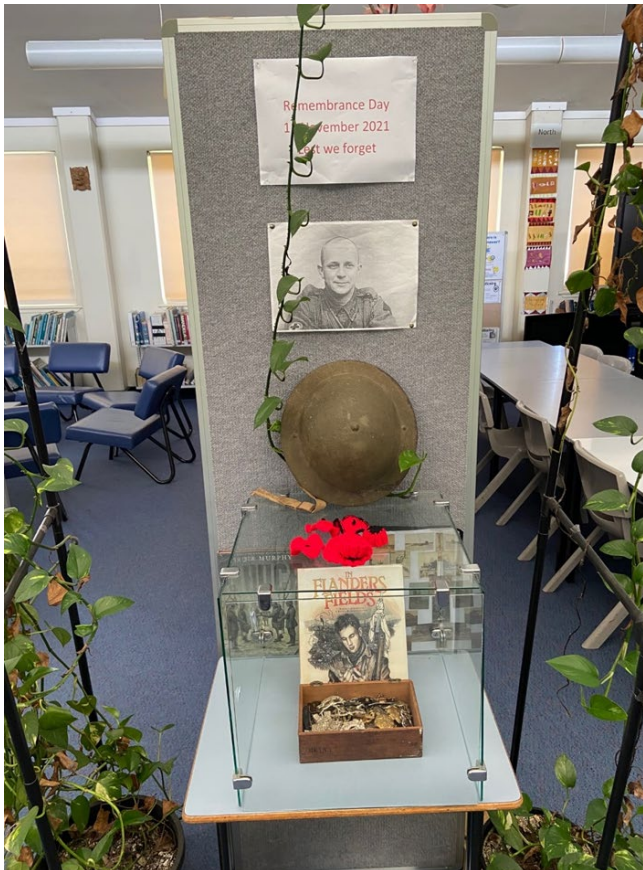
## LIBRARY NEWS

### Borrowing

The Library Click & Collect Delivery Service is now in operation for all students.

Students can make reservations against books in the Library Enquiry catalogue in the Student Portal. Alternatively they can email Mr Davidson at [victor.davidson@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:victor.davidson@det.nsw.edu.au) and request directly.

If the items are on the shelves they will be delivered to the classroom on the next day.



11 November 2021  
Remembrance Day Display – Lest We Forget

### All My Own Work @BGHS



Currently Year 10 are undertaking the All My Own Work course.

<http://amow.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The HSC: All My Own Work is a program designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding, valuing and using ethical practices when locating and using information as part of their HSC studies.

Students who have completed the program will also know about penalties for cheating and how to avoid malpractice when preparing their work for assessment.

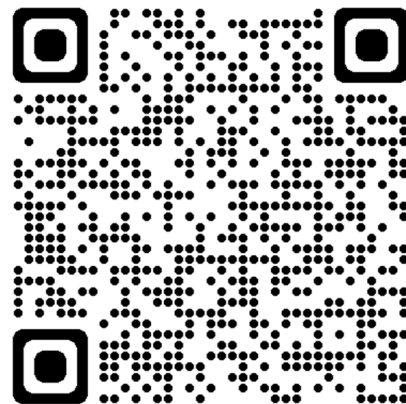
To be eligible for the HSC, students must complete HSC: All My Own Work (or its equivalent) before they submit any work for Preliminary (Year 11) or HSC (Year 12) courses.

A key practice which ensures students will avoid allegations of plagiarism is referencing resources. Birrong Girls prefers the APA system of referencing. Mr Davidson is always available to help with referencing.

### Birrong Girls Library catalogue QR code

Students can now go to the library catalogue via QR code.

Using any device which reads QR codes students scroll to Birrong Girls Library and then after logging on with Portal User Name and Password the library catalogue will open.



Mr Davidson  
Teacher Librarian

## QUICKSMART 2021

As 2021 comes to an end, it will certainly be remembered as an interesting and challenging year for all.

The QuickSmart team has worked incredibly hard to make the most of every session whether it was in the classroom, learning at school, online with sessions on Google Classroom, on Teams and over the phone. We did not give up and our fabulous students did not either.

Our students achieved some excellent results. The time spent practising their time tables and flash cards over this challenging year has translated into exceptional results achieved by students in their 4 Mathematical operations of  $+$   $-$   $\times$   $\div$

On behalf of the QuickSmart team we would like to congratulate all the QuickSmart students for taking part, working hard, putting in the hard effort and dedication this year.

For the students who are graduating we wish you all the best of luck.

For the students who will continue QuickSmart in 2022, we look forward to working hard together and making 2022 another success in achieving excellent results.

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding efforts and who received the Champion Awards for 2021:

### Year 7 Champions

Term 1 – Ruqaya Mawas  
Term 2 – Rouba Ahmed  
Term 3 – Hala Zeidan  
Term 4 – Raneem Rifahi

### Year 8 Champions

Term 1 – Ola Al Majrawy  
Term 2 – Ayah El Jbaili  
Term 3 – Ghayssa Kanj  
Term 3 – Mona Charaoui



By: The QuickSmart Team

### BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Very best wishes for the festive season to all.  
Enjoy the holiday break!

#### January 2022

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day - staff only

Monday, 31<sup>st</sup>

- School Development Day - staff only

#### February 2022:

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup>

- Years 7, 11 & 12 return

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

- All other year groups return

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

- P and C meeting, 5pm





## Re: Back to School 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are proud to be your local Bus Operator and wanted to get a head start on the New Year and reaffirm our commitment to work with you and your school to provide safe, reliable and efficient school services for students in your community.

The start of the school year is also a perfect opportunity to remind students of the importance of carrying a valid Opal card and using it correctly. We need your help to achieve this.

We have found that the common reasons students don't tap on are:

- They do not hold an Opal card and have never applied for it
- They have lost or forgotten their Opal card but have not replaced it
- They might have a valid card, but don't see any reason to tap on and off
- The driver does not ask them to TAP ON
- Due to insufficient funds on their Child/Youth Opal card.

Our Bus Drivers are encouraged to always ask students to tap on when they board the service. Transdev have also been assisting schools by requesting our Bus Drivers to ask students waiting for the school bus service to line up with their Opal cards ready and give priority boarding to those with a valid card. Those without are reminded to have a valid Opal card for their next journey. It is a condition of the School Pass Terms and the Student Code Of Conduct that when travelling students are in possession of the School Opal card and must tap on and tap off every time when using public transport to travel to and from school.

In preparation for Term 1 2022 we would encourage you to take the following steps to support us in ensuring Opal fare compliance:

- Check if your child is eligible for a school opal card by visiting [www.opal.com.au](http://www.opal.com.au)
- If eligible, ensure they have a school Opal card for the start of term 1
- Regularly check in with your child to see if they have been tapping on and tapping off for each journey
- Apply for a replacement School Opal card if they lose or misplace it

### **Transdev NSW**

PO Box 209, Georges Hall, NSW 2198

Tel: +61 2 8700 0555

ACN: 097 409 437 | ABN: 53 097 409 437

[www.transdevnsw.com.au](http://www.transdevnsw.com.au)

It is important your child taps on and taps off every time because it tells us how many people are using the public transport service. This allows us to better plan buses for your child.

Have a chat to your child about tapping on and tapping off their School Opal card every time.

You can find the latest timetables via our website at:

<https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/schools/>

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact our School Engagement Team on 8700 0555.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



**Misha Stojanoski**  
**Customer Engagement Manager**  
**Transdev NSW School Engagement Team**

**Student Code of Conduct when travelling**

The Student Code of Conduct exists to ensure you travel safely and show respect for others.

Students must follow regulations when travelling between home and school using public transport. All students must behave in a manner that ensures both their comfort and safety and that of other passengers.

The Student Code of Conduct can be found at:

<https://transportnsw.info/student-code-conduct>





## SCHOOL BUS TIMETABLE

T: (02) 8700 0555

[www.transdevnsw.com.au](http://www.transdevnsw.com.au)



### Opal, the only way to travel to and from school!

Although some might have a free pass, **all students must tap on and tap off, every time to validate their trip.**

Report lost, stolen, or damaged card immediately. While waiting for the replacement Opal card, students must use a Child/Youth Opal card or purchase a Single Trip card. Visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students) or call 131 500

## Birrong Girls High School (Birrong)

T: (02) 9644 5057

Route Number	Departure Time	MORNING Route Description
<i>908</i>	07:22	<b>From Guildford Station</b> via Railway (R) Mountford (R) Talbot (L) Guildford (R) Excelsior (L) Rawson (L) Clyde (R) Mona (L) Cumberland (R) Normanby, Queen (L) Park (R) South (Auburn Station 07:50) (R) Auburn (R) Queen (L) Harrow (R) Mary (L) Park (L) Clarke (L) Graham (R) Vaughan (R) Woodburn (L) Kerrs (R) Brixton (R) Hyde Park (L) Fourth (L) Kibo (R) Nottingham (R) Amy (L) Auburn (L) Bagdad, Cooper to School (08:13)
<i>S401</i>	07:46	<b>From Buist &amp; Hector St</b> via Buist (R) Rose (L) Brodie (L) Auburn (R) Ferrier, Bruncker (L) Cooper to School (07:58)
<i>909</i>	07:57	<b>From Bankstown Station (South Tce)</b> via (R) Overbridge (R) North Tce (L) Fetherstone (R) The Mall (L) Jacobs (R) Bankstown Central (08:00) (R) Jacobs (L) Rickard (R) Meredith, The Boulevard (L) George (R) Avoca (L) Palomar (R) Woodbine (R) Ashby (L) Bruncker (R) Cooper to School (08:08)

Route Number	Departure Time	AFTERNOON Route Description
<i>S500</i>	14:55	<b>To Bankstown North</b> via Cooper (L) Bruncker (R) Ashby (L) Woodbine (L) Palomar (R) Avoca (L) George (R) The Boulevard to Highway (15:10)
<i>908</i>	14:55	<b>To Guildford Station</b> via Cooper (L) Rodd (R) Auburn (R) Amy (L) Nottingham (L) Kibo (R) Fourth (R) Hyde Park (L) Brixton (L) Kerrs (R) Woodburn (L) Vaughan (L) Graham (R) Clarke (R) Park (R) Beatrice (L) Susan (L) Queen (R) Civic (L) Kerr (R) Auburn (L) South (Auburn Station 15:25) (L) Park (R) Queen, Normanby (L) Cumberland (R) Mona (L) Clyde (R) Rawson (R) Excelsior (L) Guildford to Guildford Station (15:50)
<i>S406</i>	14:57	<b>To cnr Buist &amp; Hector St</b> via Cooper (L) Rodd (L) Auburn (R) Brodie (R) Rose (L) Buist to Hector St (15:12)

Legend:

(L) Bus turns Left.

(R) Bus turns Right.

Route numbers in *Italic* refer to public bus services.

Update: 10 October 2016

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10/10/16