



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

As the term draws to a close, I hope this Bulletin finds you all well and looking forward to the coming holiday break with your children.

We are currently evaluating and planning for future programs. We are committed to engaging parents through relevant workshops that empower the vital partnership we have in achieving the best outcomes for your children. We would appreciate if you could complete the following survey to assist in our planning:

<https://bit.ly/birrongsworkshops>

Completing this survey will inform us about what support parents and carers would like from the school. Thank you in advance for doing this.

It has been a busy term with students across all stages focusing on rich learning activities designed by their committed teachers. As the term draws to a close, we have watched the final performances from the dance assessment stages 4 and 5 have been working on in PDHPE. We will see the presentations from Year 8 groups about their STEAM solutions regarding sustainability. We have had some wonderful wins in debating and celebrated scholarships awarded by ABCN and the Public Education Foundation to support our talented students. Knockout and representative sport are back in operation and we look forward to those opportunities continuing for our students. Auditions for our drama production are about to be conducted and two of our students were just featured in the Multicultural Playwright workshops. The Senior Learning Centre continues to be a successful layer of support for our senior students and the Homework Centre continues to operate four days a week.

Over the past term, students in Years 9-12 have had access to Atomi (online support in learning for many of the subjects studied at school). This has been a free trial. We had an incredible uptake of the trial and extremely positive reviews from staff and students. The school has decided to secure the Atomi resource for the next 18 months for all students in Years 9-12. The school will fund this opportunity, at \$90 per student. We encourage every student to continue to access these learning tools. We also pay for the Edrolo learning resource provided to students in Science, Maths and Social Science.

When I reflect upon the examples of student leadership we have had over the past term, I am inspired. The Mother's Day stall was a fantastic event where students displayed the capacity they have for initiative in marketing and sales. The Push-Up Challenge and Refugee Ration Challenge have been further, wonderful examples of our student leaders and staff making a difference and actively fundraising to support important causes. The school raised \$12,669 in this year's ration challenge and I am convinced that if every year group is involved in donating funds and raising awareness, even more can be raised in 2023. This will most definitely be our aim.

Parent-Teacher night is scheduled for Tuesday in the last week of term. I cannot stress how important it is for parents to actively engage in discussion about their child's academic progress and the level of investment their child is making in their learning. A lot of time and effort goes into putting together school reports. Teachers will be ready on Tuesday to have discussions about your child's learning. We urge you to attend between 3-6pm. If you are unable to attend, make contact with your child's year adviser or deputy principal so they can assist you to connect with your child's teachers at another time.

On behalf of students and parents, I thank the school staff for their ongoing commitment to the BGHS community. They are an incredible, hardworking staff. I wish all members of our community a restful holiday break.

Warmest regards,

Zena Dabaja
Principal

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INTRODUCING OUR STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



My name is Hanadi Ferris, and I have recently come on board the team at Birrong Girls High School as a Student Support Officer (SSO). Thank you to the incredible staff and wonderful students for making me feel right at home, what a warm

welcome I have received!

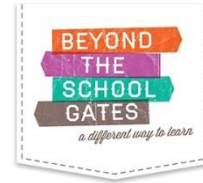
Following the completion of a Bachelor's in Psychology and Masters in Rehabilitation Counselling, I entered the world of Child Protection, where my passion in advocacy and supporting children and young people began.

The role of an SSO is fairly new and can be best described through the goals I will strive to achieve here at Birrong Girls. My goal as an SSO is to work alongside students to promote safety, resilience and pro-social behaviours, as well as being a point of call for students to seek advice, guidance, and support. I will work closely with Ms Dabaja, Deputy Principals as well as the Counsellors and Welfare team to ensure that the wonderful girls here at Birrong Girls High School have a wrap around of support and connections within the school community and out.

I am very excited to work in an environment where my passion to achieve the best outcomes for students is shared among all staff. I look forward to the year ahead!

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Student engagement and connectedness to school are closely linked to the range of activities and experiences students can and do access as well as the students' feeling of success within the classroom and the school environment.



It has been a very busy term with the athletics carnival, representation at the Zone Cross Country carnival and the increase in the number of excursions which all add to the rich learning experiences available for students. Half yearly reports are issued at the end of this term along with the invitation to visit the school and discuss your daughter's progress with her teachers. The parent/teacher evening is Tuesday 28 June from 3pm – 6pm, we hope to see you there.



Mental health is an increasing concern nationwide with the number of individuals, especially young people, being negatively impacted annually. The school community, under the leadership of the Prefects

are engaging in the '2022 Push Up Challenge – push up for better mental health'. The aim is to raise money and awareness for mental health, support the affiliated charities and engage in daily activity to improve our own mental health. During the lunch breaks on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the month of June, students are encouraged to join in the activities to raise money and get active. There will be various teacher vs student activities run every Thursday to support the fundraising event. Join in and donate to a very worthy cause.

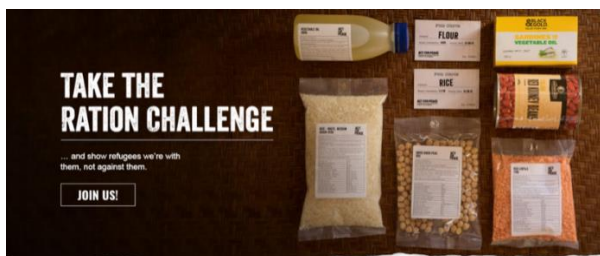
More support



Visit ReachOut.com for more mental health support or call:

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800
- Your GP

The school undertook a wonderful social justice initiative again this year, The Refugee Ration Challenge, for Refugee Week 19 - 25 June, in which teachers and students eat like a Syrian refugee. The box contains just a small amount of rice, flour, lentils, chickpeas, beans, fish and oil. It was quite a shock for us to see how little food is provided to refugees and reminds us of how fortunate we are to be living in a land of plenty. The money we raise will provide food, medicine and education for refugees and will also go a long way to support other communities around the world threatened by conflict and disaster. Our small part in this global challenge showed what a big heart our Birrong community has. We thank our school community for supporting all those who undertook the challenge and donating to this worthy cause.



Reports were distributed to Year 12 in Week 8. Most reports acknowledge what students have achieved and importantly include advice from teachers about what students can do to continue to improve in the course. Students should take note of the advice and build it into their study routine. Year 12 students selected a mentor with the support of their Year Advisers, Ms Shinas and Ms Rothwell, during Term 4 2021. Students are taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with their mentors to talk about their progress and the way they are feeling about their study. Good preparation is important but, so too, is good health. As parents/carers, you play a vital role in your child's success. Ask about their progress. Ask how they are feeling. Ask if there is anything you can do to help. Encourage them to go for a walk. Even if they walk with their earphones in listening to study notes, at least they are getting some fresh air and exercise. Encourage them to sleep. Provide healthy meals. Sometimes it's enough for you to just be there for them. We look forward to seeing you at the parent/teacher afternoon on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

Year 11 students are now half way through their preliminary HSC courses. During this time, teachers have been marking assessment (formative and summative) tasks and returning them to the students along with structured feedback that acknowledges achievement and provides advice to students about how they can realise their potential in each course. Reports are to be distributed by the end of term. Please make sure you have seen the report and followed up with

discussions relating to the report and future progress.

Year 10 students will be working with Ms Wailes and Ms Shinas in preparation for the selection of their HSC courses. There will be numerous supporting activities to ensure the most appropriate course of study for each student is achieved, including a Subject Selection Market, Senior Course Information Sessions, Parent/Student/Teacher interviews, all supported by the Year 10 Careers lessons.

Year 10 students have sat for their first attempt at Minimum Standard testing in Reading, Writing and Numeracy this term. This is a requirement for the award of the Higher School Certificate by the time students finish Year 12. Continued assessments will take place over the course of the year for students who have not yet met the required standard.

Year 9 participated for the last time in NAPLAN during May. NAPLAN results provide useful information about student progress that teachers use to plan positive learning opportunities for their classes. NAPLAN is also useful for parents because the reports provide a snapshot of their child's ability in literacy and numeracy.



Years 7-10 have been working hard in PDHPE on their class dances that will form part of their Term 2 assessments. Class dances work to build negotiation and leadership skills in students and the ability to work as a team to complete a performance task.

A reminder to all students to collect class merits and trade them in with their allocated Deputy Principal for large achievement awards, medallions and school pins. School reports for Years 7-10 will be distributed as normal at the end of this term. We have a parent assembly planned for Wednesday 29 June. We welcome parents and carers of all our award recipients to share the celebration of student achievement followed by a morning tea. This term, morning tea will be catered by our Hospitality students.

During Term 3 we will be seeking the support of all parents to complete the 'Tell Them from Me – Parent Survey'. The completed student surveys from Semester 1 will provide valuable information for us at the school. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to also inform the school about their concerns related to their daughter's education and high school experiences. More information will be sent home as the survey period approaches.

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

BGHS Numeracy corner – How can I support my child with numeracy at home?

What is numeracy and what does it mean to be numerate?

To be numerate is to use mathematics to meet the general demands at home, in work, and for participation in everyday life. Numeracy involves deciding when to use mathematics, choosing the mathematics to use, and being able to check you've used it correctly.

There are lots of resources to help our young people grow to be confident, numerate citizens. The [Everyday Maths Hub](#) is for **parents and carers**.

In this edition of Numeracy Corner, we'd like to promote the **Careers** section of the Everyday Maths Hub, which might be of special interest to those of you with children in Years 9 – 12 but it is interesting for all ages. This website can help you have conversations about the importance of subject selection and keeping your options open by doing your best every year at school. It will also uncover the enormous number of exciting careers in mathematics and explore some surprising careers in mathematics that may really interest you!



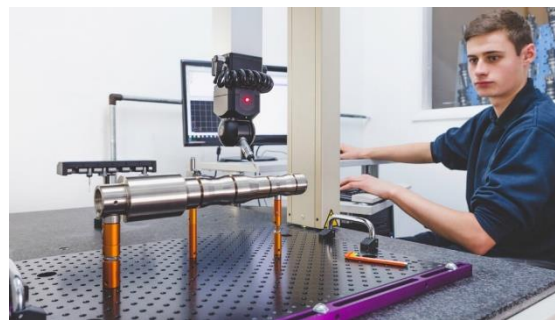
[Five careers in mathematics that might surprise you](#)

This article includes a number of surprising careers in mathematics that benefit from having senior high school and university level maths skills. This is for anyone who has ever wondered in maths class, "When am I ever going to use this?"

[Creative maths jobs: Gaming careers, media and marketing](#) – Maths is an essential tool for gaming, design, media and business.



[So many maths jobs](#) – This article is for those who love maths but are not sure what to do with it. It's an A – Z list of maths-related jobs.



You can find these articles and more at the **Everyday Maths Hub** - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/everyday-maths>.

For more information or further support, contact:

Ms Blue | Deputy Principal Mathematics and Numeracy Development



Birrong Girls High School Year 8 STEAM Project

How can we make our community more sustainable?



This term, Year 8 has been participating in a STEAM project. This means they have been working in groups during Science, Technology, Visual Arts and Mathematics lessons to learn about sustainability issues and consider the question "How can we make our community more sustainable?"

The launch for this annual STEAM project was on Monday 23 May 2022, where all of Year 8 participated in an incursion with SUEZ to conduct a waste audit in the school. This involved sorting all of the different types of waste in the school, and realising how much could actually be recycled or taken to Return and Earn. We found paper and

cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminium cans, organics and general waste.



Once all the waste was sorted, we weighed it all to see how much of each type there was! Students had a lot of fun guessing what they thought each collection weighed and the team from SUEZ gave out prizes for the best guesses! They also found 104 items that the school could have taken to Return and Earn from **just one day!**

We celebrated the launch of the project with a free sausage sizzle and drink at the end.



All of our Year 8 classes have since begun learning more about sustainability issues in the school, community and around the world. They will be working in their groups to make a sculpture out of recycled materials, as well as putting together a Shark Tank presentation and model to propose a solution that makes the community more sustainable.

Everyone is looking forward to hearing the ideas of each group! Stay tuned for the results in the next Birrong Bulletin!

By: The BGHS STEAM Team

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

UAC applications are open and students have been busy researching tertiary institutions. Students are encouraged to see one of the Careers Advisers if they need support with their application. This needs to be completed by September 30. Students are also advised to look at EAS, SRS and Equity Scholarships on the UAC website to see if they are eligible to apply. As early entry application dates start opening, the students will be notified through their Google classroom.

University Visits

Universities have been visiting us at school this term and delivering presentations to interested students during lunchtime. The interest and attendance from students in Years 10, 11 and 12 has been fantastic and a good indicator that our senior students are taking their post-school decisions very seriously. Students must ensure they are listening to student notices and checking their Careers Google classroom to stay up to date with the visits that are happening.

Year 10

Year 10 have begun their Subject Selection process. This detailed process involves a lesson, participating in the Subject Market, attendance at an information session with Ms George, as well as a teacher/parent meeting. All information will be given to students once they complete their lesson. Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to support their children during this period. All Year 10 students must ensure they are on the Careers Google classroom and checking it regularly.

Excursions

It has been wonderful to get back out on excursions this term. Numerous senior students have attended events at UTS and USYD and there will be plenty of more great opportunities this year for our girls to experience uni life and gain valuable information/resources to support them in their career decision making.



Congratulations to all of the students who participated on the day.



Miss Rothwell
Science Faculty



Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas
Careers Advisers

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE 2022

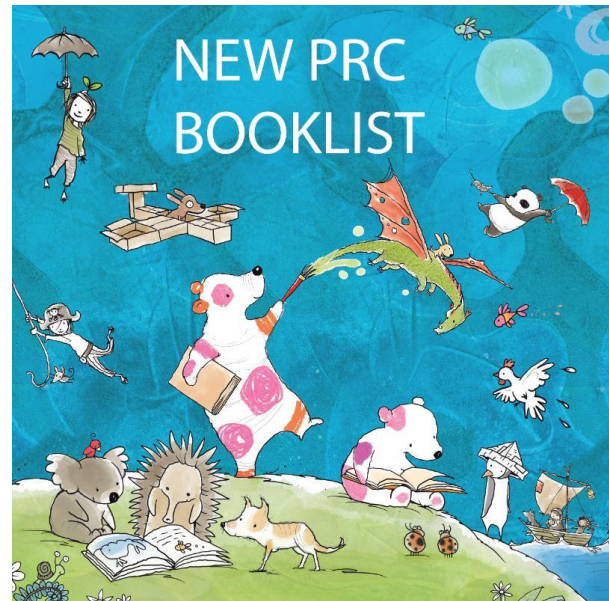
On Wednesday 25 May, 25 students from 9 Science 1 travelled to ANSTO (Australia Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) in Lucas Heights with Miss Rothwell to compete in the Science and Engineering Challenge.

This extra-curricular activity provided students the opportunity to engage in a range of challenges in areas relating to Science, Engineering and Mathematics. The girls worked in groups and most competed in two different challenges throughout the day. Students were involved in making a Mars robot, connecting electricity grids across a city, building towers that could withstand earthquakes, constructing turbines to produce electricity and building a bridge.

Each challenge result was assigned points and some of our groups were able to win or place in a number of these challenges. It was wonderful to see the bridge building team achieve the second heaviest load before their bridge cracked. All of the students worked well in the collaborative setting and enjoyed facing new styles of challenges.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are at the halfway point of the Premier's Reading Challenge and we are impressed by the statistics which show that 171 students have registered!



We are finally able to distribute PRC certificates from 2021 which were delayed by COVID. On the following page is a photo of a very proud Year 8 student, Suelayma Badra, receiving her certificate.



Mr Davidson presenting the PRC certificate to Suelayma

The Hot Box system for rewarding conscientious readers is now running well. At the end of the term Ms Dabaja will be making a draw from the raffle tickets for prizes.

Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

On 19 May, 23 students went to the Sydney Town Hall to listen to four top Young Adult Writers. The two favourites were Sarah Ayoub, who explores how it feels to live between cultures as a young person, navigating friendships, families and conflicting intergenerational ideals. She described how confronting and disempowering it feels to be subjected to racism and stereotyping. Sarah signed some copies of her new book "The Cult of Romance" for some of our students.



The other writer who was really popular with the students was Amie Kaufman, science fiction author of the Illuminae series and Aurora Rising. Her advice was well received particularly when she said "Writers seek out critique."



Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

June:

- Tuesday, 28th
 - Parent/Teacher sessions, 3-6pm
- Wednesday, 29th
 - Parent Assembly for award recipients, 8:50am
- Thursday, 30th
 - Industrial Action (teachers)

July:

- Friday, 1st
 - Last day of Term 2

Enjoy the School Holidays!

July:

- Monday, 18th
 - Staff return to school – School Development Day
- Tuesday, 19th
 - All students return to school
- Wednesday, 20th
 - Year 10 Subject Market, p1&2
- Thursday, 21st
 - Year 10 Subject Selection Info Session, p4
 - Senior First Aid Course
- Friday, 22nd
 - Senior First Aid Course
 - Visit 2 Year 10 Meningococcal ACWY vaccine and Year 11 (2021 Year 10) Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

- Monday, 25th to Friday, 29th
 - Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement

August:

- Monday, 1st to Friday, 5th
 - EDUCATION WEEK
 - Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement
- Monday, 8th to Friday, 12th
 - Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement
- Wednesday, 10th
 - Year 8 Field Day
- Monday, 15th to Friday, 26th
 - Year 12 Trials
- Wednesday, 17th
 - P&C meeting onsite and online, 5pm



**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
onsite and online
on Wednesday 17 August 2022
at 5pm

Please register your attendance by phoning the school office

You are invited to



**KARAOKE
FRIDAY!**

When? Fridays Week A - Lunch 1 & 2


Where? School Hall

Who? Anyone interested in learning to play an instrument

Why? For FUN with friends!



You are invited



to a

BGHS


**Music
Jam
Session**

When? Fridays Week B - Lunch time

Where? Music Room (23)

Who? Anyone interested in learning to play an instrument

Why? For FUN! ... & learning new skills...





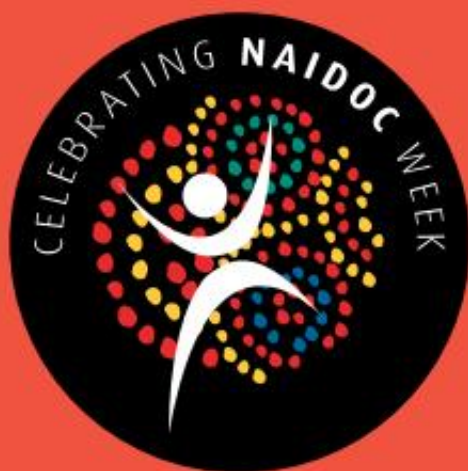
NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATION 2022

When: Wednesday 29 June
Time: 11am-1pm
Where: Anzac Park
Anglo Road, Campsie

Join us as we celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

- Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance performances
- Indigenous games
- Art activities
- Australian wildlife show
- Free barbecue

cb.city/NAIDOC



FAMILY FUN DAY

When: Saturday 2 July

Time: 10.30am-3pm

Where: Bankstown Arts Centre and Griffith Park
Olympic Parade, Bankstown

Join us as we celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

- Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performances, from The Donovans
- Australian wildlife show
- Rides and Indigenous games
- Face painting
- Weaving and Cultural workshops
- Art exhibitions
- Kids activities
- Free barbecue

cb.city/NAIDOC





TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS GAMES DAY

When: Tuesday 5 July

Time: 10am-3pm

Where: Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre
150 Belmore Road North, Riverwood

Ages: 10-16

Come along, have fun and learn how to play some traditional Indigenous games. Learn about our First Nations People and the games that have been played for thousands of years.

- Prizes to be won
- Free barbecue



Registration essential as limited spots are available.

To register scan the **QR Code** or visit **cb.city/NAIDOCGames**

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FILM SCREENING

Come along to watch '**Occupation: Native**', a film that shares stories of significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples during the European Settlement, and the impact of the settlement on First Nations People.

The session will conclude with a question and answer session with one of our local Aboriginal Elders.

When: Wednesday 6 July

Time: 11am-1pm

Where: Campsie Library and Knowledge Centre

Morning tea / light lunch provided.



To register scan the **QR Code** or visit cb.city/NAIDOCFilmScreening

Come along to watch **Bran Nue Dae**, starring Rocky McKenzie, Jessica Mauboy, Ernie Dingo, Missy Higgins and Geoffrey Rush. A 2009 Australian musical comedy-drama film directed by Rachel Perkins. The film tells the story of the coming of age of an Aboriginal Australian teenager on a road trip in the late 1960s.

When: Friday 8 July

Time: 6-8.30pm

Where: Bankstown Arts Centre

Free barbecue starts at 6pm, movie starts at 6.30pm and goes until 8.30pm.



To register scan the **QR Code** or visit cb.city/NAIDOCMovieNight

