



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the kick-off of Term 2 has come a very busy schedule of exciting learning and teaching experiences across all stages.

The Year 8 STEM program has launched with a focus on sustainability. The school's STEM faculties have been working together to design a cross curricular project that focuses on real world application of environmental issues so vital to our current and future existence. We hope that our students reflect on their learning and look for ways to improve practices at school and home as a result.

Congratulations must go to Sophie Du who won the Linda Voltz Poet Laureate competition. Birrong is celebrating three finalists in 2022 and we have successfully fielded a winner two years in a row. We are thrilled that our three finalists, Sophie Du, Kamila Mohsini and Evie Wilkins-Ausar were recognised for their writing.

Congratulations to Lara Tayyem who was the Zonta Citizenship prize winner for our school, acknowledged for her community service.

We encourage all our students to participate actively in all areas of school life in order to have a rich experience. It has been great to see our students return to 'normal' school life, sporting activities and competitions, service learning, excursions and incursions. We are looking forward to the upcoming Athletics Carnival, Push-Up Challenge and Refugee Ration Challenge. We encourage our entire school community to get behind the fundraising initiatives. They are important causes. We are a very competitive school and want to be on the top of the leader board. Go Team Birrong!

More Than Thanks

On behalf of our school community, I would like to acknowledge the incredible commitment of our staff who dedicate their lives to prepare our students for their future. The hours of preparation each week, in order to provide individualised learning and explicit teaching leaves little aside for anything else. The life of a teacher is not balanced. Our SASS staff also work exceptionally hard to ensure operations at our school are in motion – they run our school so that we can do what we need to. I am too often concerned that members of our community lose perspective of the purpose and intention of educators and school support staff. If they provide critical feedback to a student or hold them accountable for an action or decision, it is because they are committed to their growth and development, not just in a subject area, but as humans that will inherit citizenship of this world.

School support staff and teachers deserve respect and more than thanks at all times.

Road safety on Cooper Road

As the voice representing our school community, I am disappointed that ongoing requests and reminders about road and pedestrian safety on Cooper Road is required. The school has contacted council and the Department of Education to seek additional support and solutions that can minimise threats to our pedestrians during high traffic periods before and after school. However, there is only so much we can do. Every day, the Deputy Principals and I stand between students and traffic. We ask parents to move from no stopping/parking zones. We communicate, whenever we can, to remind parents and carers that it is illegal to do a u-turn on double lines, or stop on the crossing or pick up pedestrians while they are on the roundabout or in traffic on Cooper Road. The way students are called over to hurry and cross the road or to get into cars by walking between others and amidst moving traffic is alarming. The way cars pull out quickly and only narrowly miss pedestrians attempting to get into cars from the side of the car exposed to traffic is just as concerning. There have been too many near misses. It is a miracle that we have not had a car lose control on the roundabout directly opposite the student entry gate. Too many cars speed through, many (not all) driven by parents and older brothers from our school or neighbouring schools. Similar issues exist on Theresa and Marmion streets, particularly relating to the way cars come around corners and pick students up illegally. If we have a fatality or serious injury, no amount of apologies, head shaking or regret will make amends. Time will not matter. I urge all members of the community to share responsibility in ensuring everyone is safe. There is no HURRY that is worth the loss of a precious life and all lives are precious.

Warmest regards,
Zena Dabaja
Principal

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REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Congratulations to the students who have a 100% attendance record for Term 1. Well done. A great way to maximise your opportunity to learn!

Year 12 has been working to complete their assessment tasks and will be receiving their mid-course school reports in Week 6 this term. Assessments have been returned to students and teachers will use information from the marking process to adjust teaching programs to ensure our students reach their full potential by the time the HSC starts on Wednesday 12 October. Students should review their tasks to identify areas of strength and areas where they need to build on their knowledge, understanding and skill. The HSC timetable was released on Friday 29 April and students should now know when each of their final exams is scheduled.

Year 11 students have now settled into senior school life and understand the expectations that go along with being a senior student. This means that students should be devoting sufficient time to their studies and be reflecting on the feedback provided by their teachers during class and following their assessments. Students should be building a sustained homework and study routine at home in preparation for their preliminary exams which take place in late Term 3. Teacher feedback is the greatest resource students can access and use in order to make the necessary changes to enhance their personal educational growth. We encourage all senior students to make use of the teacher support/tuition offered in the library Tuesday to Thursday from 2.50pm – 4.45pm every week and online on Mondays via the Homework Centre Google Classroom.

The majority of **Year 10** students are applying the necessary work ethic in classes and at home to help them achieve successful results in their RoSA year. The Commerce Mother's Day Stall was held on Friday 6 May. Funds raised will be donated to the Amnesty team to support birthing kit assembly. The half-yearly exams are scheduled during Weeks 4 and 5 with the core subjects starting Wednesday 25 May. Year 10 will also be undertaking the first opportunity this year to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2024. The three short online tests will consist of everyday reading, writing and numeracy skills. We have a busy term ahead for Year 10.

Term 2 is a time for all **Year 9** students to really engage in their learning now that they understand what is required of them in all courses. Student application and progress will be recorded formally and at the conclusion of this term school reports will be distributed. NAPLAN took place during Week 3 this term.

Most of our **Year 8** students have settled back into the routine of high school life with many already receiving achievement awards from their teachers. It is good to see so many Year 8 students taking advantage of the school's Homework Centre in the library which operates for two hours after school on Tuesday to Thursday and on Mondays via the Homework Centre Google Classroom. The Homework Centre provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage productively in their learning. Experienced teachers provide assistance to students who require support with their homework, assignments and assessment tasks. Year 8 students will participate in the PDHPE Junior Showcase on Friday 24 June. They will also be completing a whole-school STEAM project in Weeks 5 – 10. This will mean all Science, Technology, Visual Arts and Mathematics lessons will be exploring the driving question "*How can we make our community more sustainable?*".

Year 7 students have well and truly settled into the swing of life at Birrong GHS. Many students have already been working hard and receiving achievement awards from teachers. When a student submits five achievement awards to a Deputy Principal they will be awarded a Certificate of Merit. All students are encouraged to be active participants in the *School Merit System* process. An outline of the School Merit System can be found in the school diary. Year 7 students were involved in NAPLAN testing during Week 3 this term.

The school athletics carnival is scheduled for Week 7, Monday 6 June and there is an expectation that all students will be in attendance. The carnival day is a great opportunity for all students to get involved in the fun activities offered on the day. Join the fun by signing up to run a race, jump long or high or throw a javelin, disc or shot put.

Parents are encouraged to check the school website regularly at <http://www.birronggir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

The site is updated frequently with information and images that celebrates our students' achievements.

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

WELFARE MATTERS



Students with 100% attendance for Term 1 were presented with a Recognition Award at Year meetings. These

students were recognised for their excellent commitment to their learning. Good attendance of over 90% is extremely important for strong student learning achievement and it is also very impressive when applying for work, whether it be part-time work or full-time work post schooling.

All students are encouraged to be at school every day unless they are sick. Every student can improve their attendance percentage by coming to school every day from this point. Look at this example- if for Term 1 you have 10 days absent, you are at 79.59% attendance. That is, you were present 39 days out of 49 school days. If you have no more absences in Term 2 then your 10 days absent will put you at 89% attendance. If you have no more absences in Term 3 then your 10 days absent will put you at 93% attendance. If you have no more absences in Term 4 then your 10 days absent will put you at 94.87% = 95% attendance. That is, you attended 185 days out of 195 school days over the year. Improve your attendance, start from today.

Vision Assessments

Students have been provided the opportunity to take part in free comprehensive vision assessments undertaken by **Straight Sight** at our school in Week 4 this term. Students who return a completed and signed permission form will be seen by an optometrist and an orthoptist.

Every student assessed who requires glasses will be given the option of choosing glasses from the FREE range that Straight Sight offers. Students will be provided their vision assessment result to take home to their parents or carers.

Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Salsabeel Jumah of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for March 2022. She has demonstrated strong citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community. She is a mature and diligent student with a

positive attitude to her studies.

Salsabeel has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs. She has demonstrated dedication, leadership and initiative in the SRC, the Environmental and Amnesty Teams, the debating team and in the school Prefect Body where she has been elected as a School Vice-Captain. Salsabeel

has enthusiastically participated in the Teen Brains on Wheels, the Year 7 Peer Support program and various fundraising events for worthy causes, including supporting our sponsored child, Lightness. She has also volunteered her time for the fundraising and assembly of the Zonta birthing kits.

Out of school, Salsabeel has completed the Teen Mental Health First Aid course, which has greatly supported her role as the Vice-Captain for Student Wellbeing. She has participated in the Generation Grit leadership program building resiliency and teamwork and is part of the Not Alone Youth Network group. Salsabeel is a volunteer for the Lighthouse Community Service, which is a charitable organisation supporting youth and victims of domestic violence.



Congratulations to Amira Annous of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for April 2022. She has demonstrated citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community. She has a positive

and mature attitude to all aspects of her schooling and has achieved highly in the field of sports.

Amira has excelled in various school sporting teams including soccer, touch football, netball and basketball, representing the school at zone soccer and at the zone and regional cross country and athletics carnivals, receiving the 2021 Excellence in Athletics Award. She is the Student Ambassador for the school Push-Up challenge this year. Amira has been a committed Peer Reading Tutor supporting the literacy development of Year 7 students and an enthusiastic Peer Support Leader. She has participated in programs including the Teen Brains on Wheels Peer Coach training, U@Uni and Fast Forward. Amira has been elected as the Co-curricular School Vice-Captain, in charge of the curricular activities within and outside of the school, including sporting events.

Out of school, Amira makes time to stay healthy and active by regularly going to the gym, playing soccer and attending social activities. She participated in a community mental health course supporting stress management.

Ms Salvagio
Head Teacher Female Students

LIBRARY NEWS

Term 2 has been very busy so far. Lunchtime activities such as chess and knitting/crocheting are providing opportunities for both intellectual challenges and creative craft pursuits.

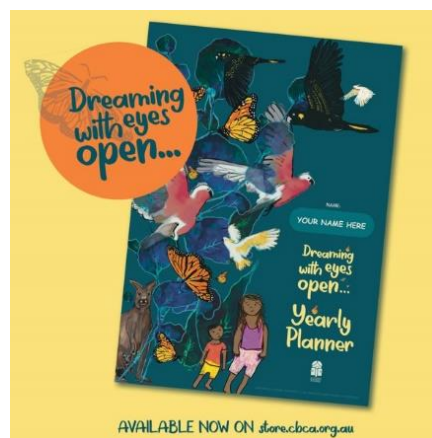


The 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge is well underway. At this point of time 124 students have begun the challenge. Help is available if students need recommendations for books on the PRC.

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>



The Short List for CBCA Book of the Year has been launched. Students can see the top Australian books for 2022 at <https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2022>. The library has all of the Book of the Year: Older Readers and many books in the other categories.



Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

THEATRESPORTS

Another successful round of Theatresports Heats! Over the last two weeks, our Intermediate and Senior teams competed for a place in the semi-finals against other teams from a record number of schools from all over Sydney.

Our Senior Team (Lara Tayyem, Nour Abdelkader, Bariya Nazha, Maysa Elkurdi, Esra Taiba and Angela Gao) battled first at Crestwood High. They confidently improvised with other student players during the workshops, which were run by experienced Theatresports coaches. In the competition they played pirates, cowboys and gold miners and even broke into song in Round 3! This earned them a respectable 5th place, just two points off progression to the semi-finals.

The Intermediate Team (Shrouq Abu-Aguleh, Amina Badra and Maha Aiche) were new to competitive Theatresports but managed to hold their own against 9 other teams at Tara Anglican School for Girls. They made some really great dramatic offers with all team members gaining skills and confidence throughout the evening. Their triumph was a haunted house scene which earned them 3 nearly perfect scores.

We want to give a big thank you to parents who supported the students by driving around Sydney for the competitions and cheering them on during the shows.

As always the competition has been a great learning experience, a chance to make new friends and an opportunity to build quick thinking, confidence and listening skills. Our girls are ready and raring to go for next year's competition with a whole lot of new tools in their belt.

Ms Waters, Ms Legg and Ms Wright
Centre Stage Drama ensemble coaches

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS



What an amazing opportunity to fly in a hot air balloon at sunrise for some Birrong Girls SASS staff. We were able to experience the spectacular views whilst floating above the ground and alleviate our fear of heights. We thoroughly recommend to anyone to experience something out of their comfort zone and enjoy the beauty of what nature has to offer us.

Ms Araujo, Ms Murphy and Ms Hunter
School Administrative and Support Staff

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

For your diary / noticeboard

May:

Thursday, 26th

- Year 10 Half Yearly Exams – Geography am, PDHPE pm

Friday, 27th May

- Year 10 Half Yearly Exams – Mathematics am, History pm

June:

Monday, 6th

- School Athletics Carnival at The Crest Athletics Field, McClean Street, Georges Hall

Wednesday, 8th

- SSW Cross Country

Monday, 13th

- Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Saturday, 18th

- BGHS Social Justice Team will be holding its 9th Annual Birthing Kits Assembly Workshop at school from 9am – 12pm

Thursday, 23rd

- Zone Athletics at The Crest

Friday, 24th

- Year 8 PDHPE Junior Showcase

Monday, 27th

- P1 Year 8 STEAM showcase in the Hall

Tuesday, 28th

- Parent/Teacher sessions (time to be advised)

Thursday, 30th

- PDHPE Dance Display

July:

Friday, 1st

- Last day of Term 2



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

A DAY MISSED HERE OR THERE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE MUCH, BUT...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	This is...	And therefore, from kindy to year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

GIVE YOUR CHILD EVERY CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

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

Firstly, 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.

The Everyday Maths Hub

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/everyday-maths>

There are lots of resources to help our young people grow to be confident, numerate citizens. The [Everyday Maths Hub](https://education.nsw.gov.au/everyday-maths) is for **parents and carers**. Maths is used every day in almost everything we do. Parents and carers can support their child's mathematical skills and understanding with fun, practical and creative activities.

Last Birrong News we looked at [Baking lamingtons](#) (or baking anything!) and [Is it really a bargain?](#)

Here are two more examples:

[Camera angles](#)

Suitable for Years 7-12

If your teenager is interested in photography or film – even if it's just a selfie – there's a lot they can do to get a better shot. Photography and filming are rich in mathematics, and a knowledge of angles and ratios will really help.



[Chef for the night](#)

Suitable for Years 7 – 12

Hand over the evening meal to your child and get them to choose a recipe that they want to cook. To increase the mathematical challenge, get them to make a different number of servings than the recipe calls for. They'll have to do some calculations and work out the portions.



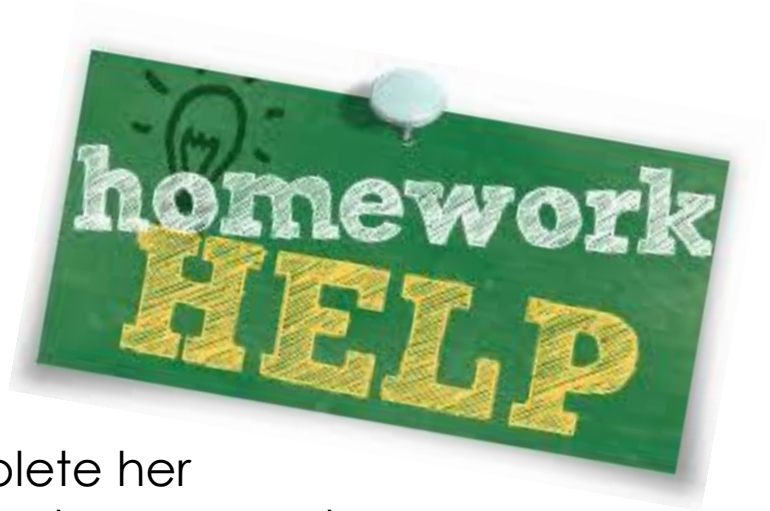
You can find these activities and more for Kindergarten to Year 10 at the **Everyday Maths Hub** - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/everyday-maths>.

For more information or further support, contact:

Ms Blue | Deputy Principal Mathematics and Numeracy Development

Birrong Girls High School

Homework Centre



Provides a **free** facility to assist your daughter complete her homework, assignments and assessments.

The Homework Centre's program offers your daughter a supervised facility where she can complete her homework, research and assignments.

Our expert Homework Centre Teachers will assist your daughter by:

- Explaining homework tasks and assignments.
- Providing advice and assistance about how to best complete tasks, including developing and improving research skills.
- Providing guidance about best study practices.
- Improving literacy and numeracy skills.

The Homework Centre operates from the school's library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 2.50pm and 4.45pm. Students are expected to arrive promptly at the library entrance and register their presence using the Homework Centre Sign On sheet at the front desk. Students will be supervised and assisted by members of our teaching staff. The school's library provides your daughter with access to all the regular library facilities and a safe and quiet learning environment.

The Homework Centre operates online on Mondays, via the Homework Centre Google Classroom (Class Code: ge5cq4a), between from 3.45pm – 6.30pm. This will take place every Monday of the school term. Students are able to access a Zoom link to join a virtual classroom space in Google Classroom. A teacher will be available to assist them in Zoom.

Please do consider the benefits of the Homework Centre and encourage your daughter to utilise its amenities as an additional resource for her learning.

All you need to do is complete the permission slip found on Google Classroom OR available from the Front Office and Learning Support Staffroom. The note then is to be returned to Mr Ali.

If you have any queries about the Homework Centre please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ali on 9644 5057.

Auburn Poet Laureate Competition
'Beginnings' By Sophie Du -
Year 9 (age 14) From Birrong Girls High School.

Its scuffing of shoes against concrete pavements.
It's tripping before reaching your destination.
It's a far reach to the top shelf.
A wilting daffodil in your palm
and you can't really help how it goes.

It's life before you know who you're going to be.

It's big,
loud,
slow
and cruel.

It's a white canvas waiting for disaster to happen,
but why won't you let chaos ensue?

It could be new shoes waiting for you,
A hand helping you up,
A stool to help reach,
A new daffodil seedling
and perhaps you can make your mark.

It's a new life awaiting you.

It's big,
loud,
swift,
kind--

And you won't ever know what'll happen
if you don't go past chapter one...

Auburn Poet Laureate Competition

Name: Kamila Mohsini

Age: 15

School: Birrong Girls HS

Beginnings - New life/country

I dream of peace but she is nowhere to be found
So I run, I run, just two feet on the ground.
War is no one's friend, especially not mine.

18, February 2018
Getting reborn
In a fresh homeland -
Like birds of passage,
circling the skies to find their bearings,
I try to find a way to settle.'

Placing my feet on the sand
That beautiful sand I'd heard so much about
Now holds onto my feet keeping me from moving
Like a voiceless bird shivering and
isolated in the corner of the cage,
a look around,
startled at my surroundings.

This newly built cultural wall of difference
Is thicker and higher.
I cannot easily break through this wall,
nor can I simply leap over.
I am so different from others,
And I feel
like a fish out of water.

But I am not going to lose hope
For my loved ones are my strength to cope

Auburn Poet Laureate Competition

-Evie Wilkins-Ausar

-14 years old

-Birrong Girls High School

“Beginnings”

The hard cover turns
The spine creases
The pages gather
A crisp smell of the off white paper

Eyes travel across the words
The same words that generate an image
Of violet and blue and indigo and red
A lake, a tree, a car, a tent

The cardboard warms beneath your touch
The tension builds within your hand
A look of disgust
A crimson blush

Until the book is shut
Returned to a shelf

Awaiting a time, when its story is of use again