



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 6

September 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

And just like that, Spring has sprung again. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly time passes and how the cycle of life turns.

During this past term, we have celebrated life in the most wonderful of ways- with important members of our school community marrying and giving birth. We congratulate all members of our school community who have celebrated new additions to their families and send blessings and best wishes.

We also celebrated the life of former BGHS principal, Ross McBride. Ross was principal from 1987 to 1997. He was a passionate educator and played a significant role in developing creative and performing arts programs wherever he taught. We still experience the legacy of his work at our school today. Ross was highly respected and committed to the values of public education. Deepest condolences to the McBride family and all those who knew him.

### A reminder of our school values

Our school values reflect departmental policy. All students and families are welcome, respected and included. We remind all students that hostile language or behaviours are not tolerated. 'I respect everybody, but...' is not acceptable. There is no 'but'. No one is excluded from the realms of respect. No one has the right to judge or put others down.

### Advice to parents about social media

This is a reminder to all parents about the serious issues relating to misuse of devices and social media that has seeped into the lives of all families. From infancy, children are being handed phones and other devices to occupy and entertain them. Unfortunately, they run the risk of being exposed to inappropriate material from a vulnerable age and what is seen cannot be unseen. Additionally, young people are engaging in risk taking behaviours, communicating with people they do not know and trusting them- more than they trust and communicate with people who know and love them. Part of the problem is that decision making is not a strength during the period of adolescence. Part of the problem is that the pressure and influence of the peer group is far stronger than any rule or common sense ever provided. Young

people are also wasting incredible amounts of time socialising on devices- all hours of the day and night.

There is so much to say about these issues, but some key advice is the focus in this report.

1. Monitoring and tracking programs on phones and other devices is strongly advised
2. Limit the amount of access and use of phones and devices- a significant reduction is required
3. Phones are not required when students are at home- they should be handed over
4. Laptops and other devices should be used in full view of parents- no devices should be permitted in sleeping areas.

Have you done a work/leisure audit? How much time does your child spend working at home? Compare it to the time they spend on their phone/device. Does it add up? It will not and the only answer is to design a more effective home routine. Routines are everything.

### Farewelling Year 12

As we farewell the Class of 2022 this term, we wish them every success in their exams and above all, their future. You are a wonderful cohort of young women, headed by our fantastic prefect body and our Captain Daliya and Vice Captains, Salsabeel, Amira and Angela. You have been an absolute delight and we are proud of you.

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I thank all our staff for their incredible hard work in supporting all students, and in particular, Year 12. We encourage Year 12 to continue pushing themselves until their last exam. We congratulate each one of you for the over 60 early entry university offers that have come your way. Never give up. Never. And always do your absolute best-leave nothing in the tank.

Happy and safe holidays to all our parents, carers, students and staff. We will see you in Term 4.

Warmest regards,

Zena Dabaja  
Principal

## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

### Tell Them From Me

Every year we ask parents and carers to complete the 'Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent' survey. This survey asks questions about student wellbeing and engagement. The information provided by parents and carers helps us to understand more about your child's experience at school. You can help us to confirm our school's areas of strength as well as areas for us to focus on in the future. The survey is anonymous and only takes around 15 minutes to complete on a computer, tablet or smart phone. The parent survey asks a range of questions related to the following areas:

- feeling welcome
- being informed
- being supported with learning at home
- parents' participation at school
- how the school supports positive behaviour
- student safety
- inclusion
- how the school supports student learning.

Our school survey will be open from Monday 17 October to Friday 21 October 2022 (Week 2, Term 4). We will provide the link for the survey via text direct to you and also on our social media sites.

Year 12 students have completed their Trial examinations. It is very important for all students to use the critical teacher feedback in preparation for their HSC examination next term. This is a time for Year 12 to modify their study habits and make the necessary changes as they travel towards the HSC. After all study notes are complete, students should be engaging in past papers and send the completed questions to their teachers for feedback regarding content and writing style. Motivation will be the key and it is very important for our students to keep their eye on the prize.

All Year 12 students must continue working until the end of Term 3 and all through the September / October school holidays in preparation for the HSC. Sustained dedication, time and effort towards examination preparation will lead to success. The school community wishes you all the very best!



We congratulate the following Year 12 girls for making it to the finals for the NSW Department of Education 2022 VET Awards. The ceremony was online this year on the evening of Monday 5 September.

- Hospitality Certificate II: Nassab Hamed
- Retail Services Certificate III: Linda Douar
- Business Services Certificate II: Batool Hihi
- Diligence Award: Maysaa Dandachi.

A special congratulations to Nassab Hamed and Batool Hihi who won the prize for their categories!

The following Year 12 girls attended the Rotary VET Awards on Tuesday 13 September at Bankstown Senior College following their successful applications:

- Hospitality Certificate II: Manling Chen
- Retail Services Certificate III: Fatima Al-Tallal
- Business Services Certificate II: Mah Noor.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

#### Year 12 Key Dates:

- Year 12 Picnic on Wednesday 21 September: Birrong Girls High School (all day 8.30am - 2.50pm)
- Year 12 Graduation on Friday 23 September at Bankstown Sports Club (10.30am)
- HSC commences on Wednesday 12 October.

Year 11 students have now completed their Year 11 Final Examinations. In Term 4 they will officially begin their Year 12 course of study. All Year 11 students need to ensure they understand the importance of this year and set up effective study habits that will ensure their success leading to their HSC exams in 2023. Year 11 students are also in the process of electing the Prefect body who will lead our school from Term 4 this year and into 2023. All Prefects must demonstrate the Core Values of our school and follow our Code of Behaviour.

Year 11 will also be involved in the RYDA excursion as part of their mandatory "Life Ready" hours. The girls will gain valuable safe driving information and practical experiences throughout the day. It is a very interactive excursion that will be educational and enjoyable.

Year 10 students attended *bstreetsmart*, an initiative of the Trauma Service at Westmead Hospital. The event aims to reduce the fatality and injury rates of young people by promoting safe behaviours as drivers, riders and passengers. The interactive event is based around a car crash involving young people. It is very confronting and successfully communicates messages about the potential deadly impact of driver *and* passenger behaviour. As many of your daughters are (or will soon be) old enough to become learner drivers we encourage you to talk to them about this experience.

Year 10 students have also completed the subject selection process for Year 11, 2023. All students will receive a personalised letter confirming their selections and the learning charges associated with the different courses. They should be preparing for their Year 10 final exams which will be held mid Term 4. Year 10 students are expected to keep working at a consistent pace for the remainder of the year, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure no warning letters are sent home.

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

Year 8 students have completed the process of selecting their two elective subjects for Year 9 and Year 10. Our elective program provides students with the opportunity to supplement their mandatory courses of study with courses in which they have a particular interest. All Year 8 students have received their personalised letters indicating their 2023 elective courses.

Year 7 engaged in the STEAM Skills Development Day on Monday 29 August. It was a day filled with team challenges, building collaboration, communication and problem-solving skills. On Tuesday 30 August, the Year 7 STEAM Rollercoaster Challenge was launched, and students have been working together to plan, design and build a working model rollercoaster. Stay tuned for the results of this showcase in our next edition.

Year 7 will also be engaging in their Field Day on 12 October. This is a fun sports gala day where the girls play a variety of sports with other girls' schools from the area.

All students should be practising their GEM skills (Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness) every day to build positive learning environments, mindsets and peer relationships.

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

## WELFARE MATTERS



Congratulations to all our students who have maintained very good attendance of over 95%. It has been a difficult term with high levels of COVID, colds and flu in our community, so our students have shown strong commitment to their education by attending school regularly. 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.

If a student was absent for 10 days over Terms 1 to Term 3, her attendance rate would be 93%. If she has no more absences in Term 4 then her 10 days of absence will put her at 95% attendance. That is, she attended 185 days out of 195 school days over the year.

### Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Khadeejah Salim Ali Farrar of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for July 2022. She has shown commitment to the school community through her involvement in various programs and teams over the years. She has been an active member of the Environmental Team and was a supportive Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students transitioning into high school. Khadeejah shows leadership and cooperation as a member of the school Prefect Body, participating in fundraising such as the Push Up Challenge. Out of school, Khadeejah is an archery instructor, training both children and adults since 2018. She has also competed in archery and has succeeded to state level.

Her future goals are to attend university to study in the field of medicine with the long-term goal to become a surgeon. Khadeejah hopes to continue to compete in archery to an international level and she aspires to travel the world and work with Médecins Sans Frontières, Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organisation.



Congratulations to Abir Abedine of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for August 2022. She has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various

programs. She has enthusiastically participated in the Senior Premier's Debating team and she is a committed member of the school Media Team and the Social Justice Team. Abir has demonstrated leadership and dedication as part of the school Student Representative Council, being involved in various fundraising causes including the Push Up challenge, supporting mental health wellbeing, and the Ration Challenge, supporting refugee communities. She has also been a strong sports person who has represented the school at zone cross country and has participated in sporting teams in oz tag, touch football and netball. Outside of school she has participated in sporting competitions in oz tag, touch football and NRL. Abir enjoys being a religious teacher for young students and she supports charities that raise funds for those in poverty.

Her future goals are to attend university to study criminology and law to pursue a career that supports and serves those who are oppressed and discriminated against, and she will work hard to open her own law firm. Abir hopes to travel around the world and to make a positive difference in the lives of many.

### Year 7 Incursion

Our Year 7 students will be participating in "Unlimited", an interactive theatre performance, on Thursday 15 September in period 4 in our school hall. "Unlimited" is designed to raise aspirations and an awareness of Higher Education as a realistic option. The University of Western Sydney has funded Gibber to deliver this exciting and innovative theatre in education performance at no cost to our students.

"Unlimited" is a dynamic and high energy interactive performance using humour, music and multi-media to engage, inspire and inform students about the different progression paths into tertiary education. Using identifiable characters and fun interactive scenarios, they dispel preconceptions or negative attitudes towards learning beyond high school, raising awareness of the specific pathways into university and their accessibility for all.

Ms Salvagio  
Head Teacher Female Students

## LIBRARY NEWS

Our two reading programs have finished. The 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge has finished, and we congratulate the 59 students who read and recorded 20 books. Certificates will be distributed to the successful students next term. The Kids Own Australian Literature Awards (KOALA) reading and voting program has also finished. The votes have been submitted, and we will find out the most popular books for Australian students on Awards Day, 25 October. Two of the most popular books in Birrong were *We are Wolves* by Katrina Nannestad and *The Trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend.

On 26 August, the winners of the Book Week competitions were announced.

Sireen Al Khaled won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for book review.

Suelayma Badra won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Creative Writing.

Fathima Shukry won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Poetry.

Layla Bekdache won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Manga Illustration.

Rayan Sakr won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Poster of a Book Cover.



Book Week competition winners with their prizes

Mr Davidson  
Teacher Librarian

## FROM THE ENGLISH ROOMS

### ***A Light exists in Spring***

by Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring  
Not present on the Year  
At any other period —  
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad  
On Solitary Fields  
That Science cannot overtake  
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,  
It shows the furthest Tree  
Upon the furthest Slope you know  
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step  
Or Noons report away  
Without the Formula of sound  
It passes and we stay —

A quality of loss  
Affecting our Content  
As Trade had suddenly encroached  
Upon a Sacrament.

The last few weeks, the English faculty has been ensuring that students are developing social and academic skills that will strengthen them as 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. There is a strong focus on higher order thinking processes in the lead up to senior years so that we maximise the impact of collaboration, writing, public speaking, debating and drama on our students.

Students from Years 7-10 have competed successfully in the Henrietta Wooster speech competition during Education Week and they have showcased their strong public speaking skills.

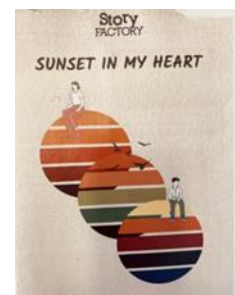
Our team of Drama teachers is currently working hard for our in-school performance with weekly rehearsals and multiple set and puppet-making workshops. We encourage our community to stay tuned and not miss out on this production next term!



Our debating teams have had a streak of wins that confirmed the solid reasoning our students have along with the enthusiasm and motivation to achieve their best. Unfortunately, the journey of both teams was cut short but not before instilling confidence for better results next year!



We have re-established our on-site creative writing workshops with Story Factory where our 10E1 students are learning to establish realistic settings and plausible characters through the precise use of words. Many more classes will be benefiting next term from this successful partnership.



Our Year 12s have just received their results for their Trial HSC exams

and are now in the final stretch of their studies at high school. Our English and Drama teachers are working hard to support their efforts in this stressful stage of their lives. Our students are encouraged to maintain healthy daily routines with consistent study bursts that include revision of texts and notes supplemented by the writing of draft responses to past exam questions which they will then submit to their teachers for feedback.

Next term is fast approaching!

Ms Caravas  
Relieving Head Teacher English/Drama

### YEAR 7 STEAM SKILLS DEVELOPMENT DAY



Year 7 participated in a STEAM Skills Development Day on Monday 29 August in preparation for the launch of their STEAM challenge in Weeks 7 – 9 of this term.

This was a special day filled with team challenges in Periods 1 – 4. The activities were designed to build collaboration, communication and problem-solving skills in our students. This was to help prepare them to work successfully in groups during their three-week STEAM challenge launched on Tuesday 30 August.



We would like to thank all our staff who contributed to the success of the day – especially those teachers who facilitated the group challenges for all four periods! THANK YOU!

The STEAM challenge in Weeks 7 – 9 means that students worked in groups during Science, Technology, Visual Arts and Mathematics lessons to plan, design and build a working **model rollercoaster**. We look forward to seeing the rollercoasters in our next edition.



By: STEAM Team

## YEAR 8 STEAM – HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR COMMUNITY MORE SUSTAINABLE?



### Birrong Girls High School Year 8 STEAM Project

How can we make our community more sustainable?



Last term, Year 8 participated in a STEAM project, “How can we make our community more sustainable?”

All of our Year 8 classes learned about sustainability issues in the school, community and around the world. They worked in 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.

We are pleased to officially announce the winning team of the Year 8 STEAM challenge:

Congratulations to **Team B5 – The Bee Hotel**

*Salam Badra, Nhi Dang, Safiya El-Chiekh, Amara Mikati and Mahrifa Shukry.*

These students identified the issue of bees as an endangered species and proposed building bee hotels in various safe spaces around the school and community to provide bees with a safe space to live.

The Shark Tank presentations were an insightful exploration into several different sustainability issues that our school, community and world currently face.



Congratulations to all the finalists and thank you to our judges: Ms Dabaja, Ms George and Ms Cross.



By: STEAM Team

**JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY FUNDRAISING LUNCH**



Salsabeel and Angela pictured with Sam Mostyn



On Monday 12 September, Vice Captains Angela Gao and Salsabeel Jumah represented the school at the Jessie Street National Women's Library Fundraising Lunch at Parliament House in Sydney. Sam Mostyn was an inspiring guest speaker who addressed the importance of women being represented in all areas of life. There were members of Parliament, women in business and schools from the local area in attendance. It was a great opportunity for the girls to be exposed to successful women and keep up the fight for change. A huge thank you goes to Lynda Voltz MP for inviting Birrong Girls to the fundraiser, the students sincerely appreciated being able to attend such a wonderful event.

Ms Greentree  
**Prefects Coordinator**



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

Parents are invited to attend the  
**P & C MEETING**  
 onsite and online  
 on **Wednesday 9 November 2022**  
 at 5pm  
 Please register your attendance by phoning  
 the school office

**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR**

<b>September:</b>	
Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	▪ Public Holiday – National Day of Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	▪ Last day of Term 3 ▪ Year 12 Graduation at Bankstown Sports Club, 10:30am
<b>Enjoy the School Holidays!</b>	
<b>October:</b>	
Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup>	▪ All staff and students return to school
Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup>	▪ HSC exams commence
<b>November:</b>	
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	▪ Year 10 Exams
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	▪ Last day HSC exams
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	▪ P&C meeting, onsite and online, 5pm
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	▪ Remembrance Day





*Community safety is everyone's business!*

# Community Safety Expo

**Saturday 24 September**

**Bankstown Central**

Lady Cutler Avenue, 9am-5pm

Meet your friendly local emergency and safety services and learn how they keep you and your family safe!

Watch demonstrations and chat to people from NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, State Emergency Services and Surf Life Saving.

- Performances
- Giveaways & prizes
- Competitions
- Kids' face painting

For more information, visit:

**[cb.city/SafetyExpo](http://cb.city/SafetyExpo)**





*CBCity Community Safety Expo*

# FREE child restraint fitting service

**Saturday 24 September**

Bankstown Central

Lady Cutler Avenue, 9.30-11.30am

Have your child restraints safety-checked and fitted by an RMS-authorized inspector for FREE, at CBCity's Safety Expo.

**Bookings are essential.** Please contact Carol Debs, Road Safety Officer, on:

**Phone:** 9789 9568 or 0409 822 848

**Email:** [Carol.Debs@cbc-city.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Carol.Debs@cbc-city.nsw.gov.au)

CANTERBURY  BANKSTOWN



# FLOAT TO SURVIVE

*with Hoppo from Bondi Rescue!*



## **Floating is a skill that could save your life.**

Learn how to float at Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre with Bruce "Hoppo" Hopkins from world-famous TV show *Bondi Rescue*.

**Where:** Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre,  
Wellington Rd, Birrong

**When:** Sunday 25 September  
9am, 10.15 am, 11.30 am  
**(Sessions last one hour)**

**Who:** Adults and children (aged six and up)  
who want to be more confident around water

**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Register:** Call 9707 5500. Spots are limited, so book now!





## The Young Naturalist

Bringing biodiversity to life & connecting children with Nature

\$100 Creative Kids Voucher covers full cost of workshop



PhD qualified  
Scientists &  
Educators

## Sydney Olympic Park School Holiday Workshops

27th, 28th & 29th September 2022



### Tuesday 27th September Microscope Magic

- Discover the magical world of Australian Biodiversity, with microscopes & magnification!
- Investigate pollen grains, fungal spores & insects under the microscope & learn to identify key species!



### Wednesday 28th September Incredible Insects

- Journey into the world of insects
- View the world through insect eyes
- Explore our worldwide collection



*Meet our*  
Australian Spiny Leaf insects (*Extatosoma tiaratum*)  
& Goliath Stick Insects (*Eurycnema goliath*)

Insect adoptions  
available

### Thursday 29th September Nature Detectives

- Discover the secret adventures of Pamela the Long-nosed Bandicoot
- Solve clues & decipher the code to identify the plants, fungi & insects Pamela encounters in the forest



"Using the cameras for Citizen Science was fun!" Leo (8 yrs)

"Pollen grains  
look beautiful  
through the  
microscope"  
Brooke  
(15 yrs)

- In ALL Workshops**
- Investigate Australian Biodiversity in our Nature/Insect Laboratory
  - Investigate our 'Living World' using research microscopes
  - Learn to identify key taxonomic groups of plants, fungi &/or insects
  - Learn Nature Photography using our Canon cameras
  - Become a Citizen Scientist with iNaturalist Nature Discovery Projects

"I loved seeing  
the native flowers  
with the hand lens"  
Sofia (9 yrs)

### Details

Ages 7 to 16 yrs  
Max 20 children/workshop  
Time: 10.30am to 3.30pm  
\$100/workshop or use CK Voucher

### To book, visit:

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



### Location

Education Annex (near outdoor gym)  
Bicentennial Drive  
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127  
Closest carpark P10F

"Please bring a snack, lunch, drink, hat & sunscreen with you & wear enclosed shoes"

"Please bring a snack, lunch, drink, hat & sunscreen with you & wear enclosed shoes"



# Go4Fun

Happy healthy kids

**Fun! After school! Join us!**



## Ready, Set, Go4Fun!

A free 10-week healthy lifestyle program for kids from age 7-13 who are above a healthy weight, and their families.

Families learn about healthy eating and physical activity through fun games and activities.

Register now! Phone 1800 780 900 or visit [go4fun.com.au](http://go4fun.com.au)

Term 4 2022  
Locations

Prairiewood Youth  
and Community Centre  
Tuesday  
4pm - 6pm

Yagoona Community  
Centre  
Thursday  
4pm - 6pm

Liverpool PCYC  
Saturday  
1pm - 3pm

**NEW!**

**Arabic supported  
program**

**Prairiewood Youth  
and Community Centre  
Tuesday, 4pm - 6pm**





**Fun! After school! Join us!**



**Ready, Set, Go4Fun!**

A free 10-week healthy lifestyle program for Aboriginal children from age 7-13, and their families.

A parent or carer is required to attend each session.

Register now! Contact Nathan on (02) 8782 0300 or [Nathan.Hughes@kari.org.au](mailto:Nathan.Hughes@kari.org.au)

Starting next term on Mondays 4-6pm

Liverpool PCYC

100 Cartwright Ave,  
Miller

For more, call  
1800 780 900

