



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

Part of the journey of education at Birrong Girls High School is understanding the concept of leadership and developing those skills and qualities in our students. We expect all our students to identify the capacity to lead in themselves and the opportunities to lead when they appear.

Often, it is when our students make mistakes that we engage in the teaching and learning process on this very subject. It is self-regulation that is vital to student success in the long term- and one of the most important capabilities necessary in the world beyond school and throughout adulthood.

We have formal leadership programs run across all stages and structured in many forms. While the most recognisable are our student representative council and prefect body, there are so many ways that our students can demonstrate leadership. Recently, a number of our students were recognised by Canterbury Bankstown Council for their leadership and service in a range of categories. The Academic finalists were Angela Phan and Zhixin Weng. The Community Involvement finalists were Aamilah Elsayed and Danielle Rifahi. The Leadership finalists were Hanin Al Khaled, Alyaa Kutti and Daliya El Helou. Hanin Al Khaled and Danielle Rifahi were the winners of their categories. These girls are fantastic representatives and ambassadors of our school, public education and their families. Congratulations!

This year, the selection process for the senior executive of the prefect body was enhanced to include panel interviews at the final stage. Following nominations and voting, successful prefects had the opportunity to nominate and interview for the captaincy positions. Presenting before the Principal and Deputy Principal, our nominees submitted an application letter and responded to a series of questions. Each of the applicants were impressive. Their ability to discuss their values and ideas was of the highest quality and we were exceptionally proud of our Year 11 candidates. Consequently, our captains are incredible individuals and we are confident that they will lead by example and most importantly, with integrity.

## Some more words on integrity

Earlier in the year, I held a series of year meetings- so that I could speak directly with whole student groups about specific issues. I asked each year group what integrity was. On every occasion, many girls were ready to state the correct response confidently.

Do the right thing even when no one is watching.

Many of our girls do this. Every single day.

In understanding integrity, we need to delve deeper. It is one thing to do the right thing when no one is watching. What do we do when we are watching and someone else isn't doing the right thing?

All we need for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing.

At Birrong Girls High School and in keeping with the values of public education and the values that underpin a society worth living in, we need to call out inappropriate behaviour. We need to have trust in the people and structures of authority and we need to teach our students to respect and work in partnership with these.

These values make decision making very straightforward. If a student sees something happening that is against the law or the rules of the school, they must notify, allowing the leaders of the school to respond quickly. Nothing good comes from covering up and if an individual is part of staying silent, they are condoning and enabling such behaviour.

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Over the past few months, vaping has become a serious issue amongst primary and high school aged children across NSW. The tobacco companies are targeting underage children with vapes in order to take advantage of their vulnerabilities and secure an important market of consumers who are easily manipulated. Vapes are highly addictive and the depths of the negative impact on the health of young people is yet to be measured. We will only know the real impact in a few years time. What is most alarming is that young people are being targeted to sell the vapes to their peers. Our school has a zero tolerance position on smoking and vaping. Students caught smoking or vaping face suspension as do students who sell, distribute or engage with others while others are vaping. All students at our school have been made aware that if they know students are in possession or vaping and fail to report, then they will face serious consequences too- because they have chosen to become part of the problem, rather than part of the solution.

We do not use the terms 'snitching' or 'dobbing' because these are not part of the vocabulary of upstanding citizens or environments that are built upon ethical behaviour. We do not accept fear of retaliation from peers is an adequate excuse to withhold knowledge about wrongdoing. What we are working towards is developing the character of all our students so they understand that strength comes from principled behaviour. Being assertive is about standing up for what is right. Power comes from education. Very few students would feel confident to do the wrong thing if they knew that everyone around them would disapprove and would not stay silent.

### **HSC Results**

HSC results will be released on Friday, December 18. The Class of 2020 is invited to a celebration breakfast that will commence promptly at 8:30am and conclude promptly at 10am.

### **Planning for 2021**

Currently, the school is undergoing processes of evaluation in order to complete the planning cycle for the next four years. We valued consultation we conducted with parents at last term's P&C Meeting. We will continue to canvas parents for feedback and insight into their experiences and views about the schooling experience of their children. We also look forward to conducting focus group sessions and surveys involving students and student voice.

### **A focus on student wellbeing**

In the coming weeks all students will experience involvement in important wellbeing initiatives that are designed to support their emotional growth and development. This is a precursor to a significant partnership with The Resilience Project that BGHS will be commencing in 2021. Both the Team Brains on Wheels and The Resilience Project are being incorporated to further enhance student wellbeing

and provide students with the necessary skills to navigate the challenges and adversity that we all encounter.

There is no question that this has been a difficult year and as we hasten towards the finish line, many people's mindsets are drawing an end to the year with an end to COVID. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We need students and their families to continue to focus on social distancing and staying safe even as restrictions ease. We also need our students to focus on their learning and to revise regularly at school. Far too many students across the state did not immerse themselves in their learning in the way that was required this year, even once they returned to face to face learning. However, not ALL students approached their learning in this way and so the gap between these two cohorts will have widened. We encourage our students to understand that learning is a daily responsibility and should be part of the daily routine, especially at home. Parents and students are reminded that punctuality and attendance plays a major role in overall performance and the hours that are lost are difficult to recover.

### **Congratulations to Mr Davidson**

Our wonderful Teacher Librarian, Mr Davidson, was honoured last week, as the Birrong Girls High School's Network Award recipient for his contributions to our students and school. We value his enthusiasm and commitment to promoting reading, writing and debating in our students. We also value his commitment to working in partnership with staff to build capacity and access knowledge. He is a most worthy recipient and we are lucky to have him.

Zena Dabaja  
**Principal**



## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome back to Term 4, a time to work hard towards future goals.

The online "Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent Survey" was available for all parents and carers from Monday 7 September-Friday 25 September. Many thanks to those people who responded. Our response rate was pleasing, carers and community members providing vital feedback that will help us to strengthen the important relationship between parents and our school.

The school's website is updated regularly with videos and photographs showing the range of educational experiences in which our students participate. The calendar now includes the full range of activities on our school schedule. We urge you to visit the site often to learn more about what happens in our learning environments.

We wish all the 2020 Year 12 students the very best as they embark on their HSC examinations. These examinations bring to a close their secondary schooling and prepare them for continued success in future endeavours. This year has been quite unprecedented in many ways but Year 12 students demonstrated great courage and resilience in meeting all the changes and challenges they faced. We wish to thank the Student Advisers for Year 12, Ms Rothwell and Mr Farrugia, for their compassion, care and support of their students. In addition, we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all our Year 12 teachers who worked tirelessly to prepare students for the rigours of the exams. We look forward to receiving news of the results on December 18.

Our Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary Year examinations and they have already begun their preparation for the HSC in 2021. Students have received their reports and should spend some time reflecting on their performance and are encouraged to seek assistance from their teachers to identify how they could achieve improvement. The Year 12 Handbook has been distributed and students are encouraged to plan their term carefully, taking note of when assessment tasks are due and ensuring that they are well organised to complete all required work.

Students are reminded to adhere to school procedures for assessment tasks and examinations which are explained in the Handbook. Nightly study habits and a clear focus on completing work to develop deep understanding are essential in achieving the best possible future outcomes. It is also important that students achieve a balance between family, study and extracurricular activities. Students should get the right amount of sleep and rest, as this often impacts

on the effectiveness of their study routines. If students are experiencing difficulty in maintaining a balance, or need assistance with setting goals, we encourage them to be proactive and seek help from Ms McDonald, Ms Parmaxidis, Ms Salvagio or Ms Tselepi.

Throughout Term 4 Year 10 students are expected to continue working diligently, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure they achieve all course outcomes. Students should also be preparing for their Year 10 formal exams which will be held during Week 5. All Year 10 students have now chosen their preliminary HSC subjects for Year 11. Some students will need to reflect on their selections and consider if their choices are best suited to their capabilities and future career aspirations. It is important that students listen to advice and make decisions which will allow them to achieve to the best of their ability. For some students, the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be a more appealing and appropriate pathway. Parents of Year 10 students considering an alternate pathway are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success post Year 10 with Ms Shinas, the school's Transition/Careers Adviser. Some students will also be completing Minimum Standards testing this year in order to demonstrate the required literacy and numeracy skills for the attainment of the HSC. Students who do not meet the Minimum Standard in Reading, Writing and Numeracy this year will be provided with additional opportunities for testing in Year 11 and 12.

Year 9 students did not complete NAPLAN tests this year due to COVID. However, in place of this, students sat alternative short online tests in reading and numeracy. These results are available to schools only and will be used to allow teachers to plan to further develop literacy and numeracy skills through targeted teaching practices.

All Year 8 students have selected their Year 9 elective subjects for 2021. These electives will continue to be studied in Year 10 2022. All students completed the Year 8 VALID (Science) online testing in Week 3.

Parents are reminded that the Homework Centre is available for students to complete work and seek assistance when they experience difficulty. It operates on Monday through Thursday and is supervised by qualified teachers from the school. This term will be a busy time studying for and completing assessment tasks, and preparing for yearly examinations. Now is the time to work especially hard to ensure that reports reflect students' efforts and capabilities.

Every day your daughter should be spending a minimum of 2 hours on her homework, assignments and revision as well as extra time for study and reading. To help students, parents should discuss their work and outwardly show interest in their learning. This could involve regularly asking them about their learning and helping them to establish a study plan to achieve their goals. Successful students always identify family support as a key element to achieving their success and acknowledge the support accordingly.

Ad Astra! Aim for your very best this term!

Ms George and Ms Andrews  
**Deputy Principals**



Class of 2020

## INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS

**Frank Kalayzich**  
**PDHPE**



My name is Frank Kalayzich and I am thrilled and excited to join the Birrong Girls High School community. As a young keen sportsman I have always wanted to be a PDHPE teacher and now in my four decades of teaching have always realised the importance of all the dimensions of health and how they can

impact our lives. I grew up on the Northern Beaches and now have settled down in the Inner West. I still do enjoy my running, and have done 14 City to Surf with a PB of 2833 seconds, for those who care, I swim regularly and have in recent years have taken up stand up paddle boarding. The thing about PB's or achievements, they are with you for life and no one can take that away from you. In the last couple of years I have worked for AFL Umpiring Department as a "Match Day Coach" after an umpiring career that lasted 514 Senior Premier Division games.

A 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher needs to be a smart learner, smart thinker and a smart doer. As a teacher my job focuses on educating students about health, it entails developing relationships. When I'm able to give students something positive to think about, and have them know that someone is proud of them, it makes all the challenge worth it. My overall goal is to meet these challenges and create lifelong learners, I want students to relish the thrill of learning a new topic, to discover their passions, and find ways to become a better learner. The one thing is to never stop learning. The best thing we can teach students to do is learn how to be learners, and how to get excited about something new, or learn to ask a question and then search for answers or more information. If you see me around please say hi and I'm always happy to chat, especially about sport. Go Manly.



Year 12 PDHPE 'Go Getters Wall' – Goals and future directions for success



Year 12 Picnic Day



**Iman Sayed Mahmoud**  
**English**



My name is Iman Sayed Mahmoud and I am a recent graduate from the University of Sydney. I studied a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in English and Performance Studies), as well as a Master of Teaching. My passion for literature, philosophy and languages continues to grow and deepen, as I explore these wonderful disciplines both within and outside of my teaching.

Teaching English, while challenging in some respects, has been very rewarding. I cherish being both a humble witness and an active influence on the learning and education of young people. Throughout my childhood and youth, being in a classroom engaged in deep learning, was something that brought me deep fulfilment and joy. I hope to leave my students with the same feeling (and critical skills!) that my teachers left me with.

I sincerely thank the staff at BGHS, particularly the English staffroom, for their warm and supportive welcome.

**Seema Shalini**  
**Social Sciences**



My name is Seema Shalini and I am very excited to be part of the BGHS family. I am an experienced Business Studies, Economics and stage 4 and 5 Geography teacher.

I believe students learn best when they are nurtured, challenged and motivated by discovering their potential. Every student deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education. I have always had a passion to make a difference through what I enjoy, that is teaching, and I am wholly committed to do whatever it takes to help students discover their potential and achieve their very best.

I am looking forward to this year and many more years at Birrong Girls High School.

**WELFARE MATTERS**



Congratulations to Alicia Kamandiyapa of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for June 2020. She has demonstrated a mature and conscientious approach to her studies. She has a positive attitude, self-motivation and enthusiasm. She has demonstrated strong citizenship and a commitment to the school community.

Alicia has carried out valuable school service through her active involvement and dedication in the school Media Team, where through her use of technology, photography and writing skills she has contributed to our school website and other school media communications. She has actively participated in various programs such as being a supportive and encouraging peer support leader and being an enthusiastic member of the debating team. Alicia shows responsible citizenship through her fundraising involvement in the Amnesty Team and volunteering her time at various school events. In her free time, Alicia enjoys music, singing and practises playing the keyboard and ukulele. Alicia has undertaken a course and obtained a Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate. She has volunteered outside of school by providing university students who were impacted by COVID with food packages.

Alicia's future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in the field of law and hopes to eventually build her credentials to become a judge.



Congratulations to Linh Tran of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for July 2020. She has demonstrated diligence and persistence in her studies and citizenship for the school community. She has a mature and positive attitude toward all aspects of her schooling.

Linh has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs and teams. She has demonstrated responsibility as a motivated Peer Support Leader, supporting the transition processes of our Year 7 students. She showed strong citizenship and care through her efforts and dedication as a Peer Reading Tutor for Year 7 students over two years and through her fundraising as a member of the Amnesty International Team, including the Zonta birthing kit assembly project in 2019. Her leadership qualities have been recognised through her work as an SRC member and her commitment to fundraising and

awareness raising events. Linh has taken opportunities to give back to the community such as volunteering for the tree planting day and the Colour Run event last year, which included her involvement in preparing the run course and she was part of the cleaning crew after the event.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in nursing to pursue a career in the health services. Linh has already started a Certificate III in Human Resources.



Congratulations to Lara Maxwell of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for August 2020. She has demonstrated persistence and diligence to achieve high academic success. She has a mature

and positive attitude towards all aspects of her schooling and is an excellent role model for her peers.

Lara has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs and teams over the years. She has demonstrated responsibility and dedication as a motivated Peer Support Leader and as a Peer Reading Tutor, supporting the transition and literacy development of our Year 7 students. Over the years Lara represented the school at zone swimming, athletics and cross country. Out of school Lara plays soccer for the Central Sydney Wolves, Chullora.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in speech pathology. Lara aspires to open her own speech pathology clinic.

Mrs Salvagio

**Head Teacher Female Students**

## CAREERS REPORT



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the current Careers Adviser at Birrong Girls High School. During the past seven years I have worked closely with students as the school's Transition

Officer. My experience with supporting parents and students transitioning into pathways has expanded over the past seven years. I have been working part time in the role of Careers Adviser and I am currently replacing Mrs Wailes who is on maternity leave after having her baby during the school holidays. Congratulations to Mrs Wailes on her growing family. I look forward to meeting and supporting each and every student through various activities and programs as your Careers Adviser.

Throughout Term 4 Year 10 students are expected to continue working diligently, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure they achieve all course outcomes. All Year 10 students have now chosen their Preliminary HSC subjects for Year 11. Some students will need to reflect on their selections and consider if their choices are best suited to their capabilities and future career aspirations. It is important that students listen to advice and make decisions which will allow them to achieve to the best of their ability. For some students, the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be a more appealing and appropriate pathway. Parents of Year 10 students considering an alternate pathway are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success post Year 10 with Ms Shinas, the school's Transition Teacher and Careers Adviser.

Year 10 students were provided with the opportunity to partake in a two-year program with UTS called U@Uni. Week 2 marked the kick start of the program, with the ambassadors and leaders of the program running workshops for our selected students. Year 11 students began the program in 2019 and will be starting their second year with UTS. Congratulations to all students who have successfully completed year one. Wishing our new cohort an enjoyable educational experience.

Year 11 – The "Are You HSC Ready?" Program has begun and already Year 11 students are showing an impressive and serious attitude towards their final year of schooling. In the Careers sessions we are discussing post school options, the UAC application process, adjustment factors (bonus points), early entry schemes, scholarships and much more. Year 11 students are encouraged to start booking appointment times so we can sit

down and start discussing post school pathways and mapping out suitable career plans.



Ms Shinas and Year 11 students at the "Are You HSC Ready?" Program

Year 11 students have commenced the UTS Hackathon Project with U@Uni. This project involved seven schools across NSW in a competition to create solutions to project briefs assigned by UTS. Students collaborated in a variety of team activities, creating and developing strategies and solutions which are essential for success at university and in their future careers. Students were able to negotiate and collaborate effectively with their peers as well as present their project in front of a Zoom audience.

An overall winning team will be announced once the project has been completed. It was an interesting and exciting day exposing students to the life of a university student. Congratulations to all our candidates for a successful day. The students involved in the project included Adyan Alhelfi, Gloria Barber, Mariam Alameddine, Sarah Ejaz, Sidra Abdullah, Alaa Elmasri, Haeba Giweli, Nessrin Malaki, Shahd Jbili and Zaynab Fahda.



UTS Hackathon Project



In December the students will partake in the 4th Hackathon Project concluding with two interactive sessions scheduled on the 3rd and 4th December. We look forward to the development of our future leaders.

Year 12 have been busy finalising their UAC enrolments and we have had many students receiving early entry placements. Congratulations to all the successful students. Early round offers will continue as the HSC begins. Wishing you all success with your examinations. I will be available to support all students with any questions and queries you may have regarding post school pathways, inclusive of University, TAFE and colleges.

Ms Shinas  
Careers Adviser



Students at UTS Hackathon Project

### SCHOOL OPAL CARDS



All students must keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2021. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1.

If a student needs to update their information or apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sssts/>. Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2020 to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid.

## BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAY



Year 11 students and teachers with 800 assembled and packed birthing kits

Our annual 7th Birthing Kit Assembly Day was held on Friday 18th September. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 Birthing Kit Workshop was re-scheduled during a school day. To comply with state government regulations, proper COVID-safe protocols were followed including washing hands and regularly using hand sanitiser.

28 students from 8B folded and packed 1,000 black plastic sheets, during periods 1 and 2 on the day. Also, 24 Year 11 students managed to assemble 800 birthing kits out of the total target of 1,000 birthing kits, during periods 3 and 4. ZONTA Club of Sydney West will be assembling the remaining 200 kits with their volunteers, over the next few weeks. The workshop was a massive success despite not running in its normal format.

Each kit contains a black plastic sheet to prevent the baby from making contact with unsanitary ground, a sterile scalpel blade, a pair of surgical gloves, a small soap bar, 3 strings for the umbilical cord and 5 clean gauzes.

These tightly packed birthing kits will be sent to remote parts of Africa and South America. The kits produced contain the absolute minimum needed to allow a child to arrive safely in this world and to secure a sterile environment for the newborn. These kits have a proven track record of significantly lowering both maternal and infant mortality rates.

Total cost of 1,000 birthing kits in 2020 was \$5,000. \$2,000 was donated by ZONTA and the remaining \$3,000 was raised by the school's Amnesty Team over the last year and a half.

\$5,000 is such a small price compared to all the benefits these kits provide to very disadvantaged communities around the world. These birthing kits will make a difference by allowing mothers and their children to reduce infection rates and severe diseases that can occur during and after birth.



Students folding a plastic sheet in the school hall



Contents of Birthing Kits: a large plastic sheet, soap, a pair of disposable gloves, 3 strings, a scalpel and 5 clean gauzes

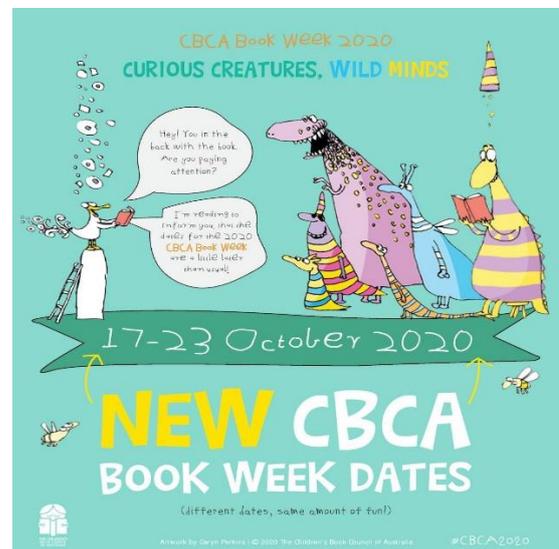
A special thanks to Ms Walker, Ms Lal and Mr Sarna for their hard work and fantastic organisation of this day.

**By: Yasmine Charkawi and Catherine Le (8B)**

## LIBRARY NEWS

That exciting time of the year for librarians is here! Book Week!

This year the theme is “Curious Creatures, Wild Minds”.



On Friday 16 October the Children’s Book Council of Australia announced the 2020 Book of the Year for books published in the last year. The library stocks all the Older, Younger and Information books. They are on display in the library and we are happy for them to be borrowed after Book Week is over.



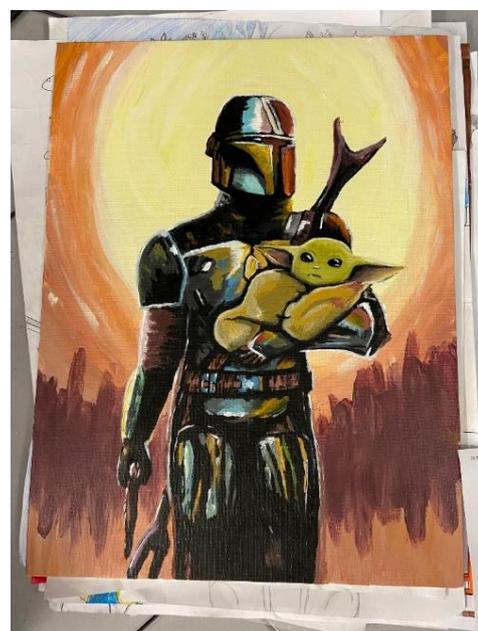
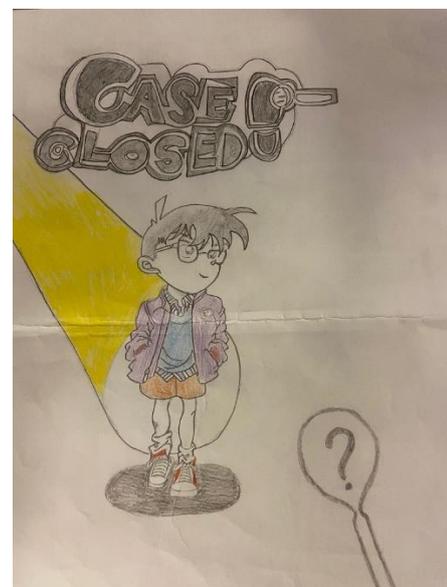
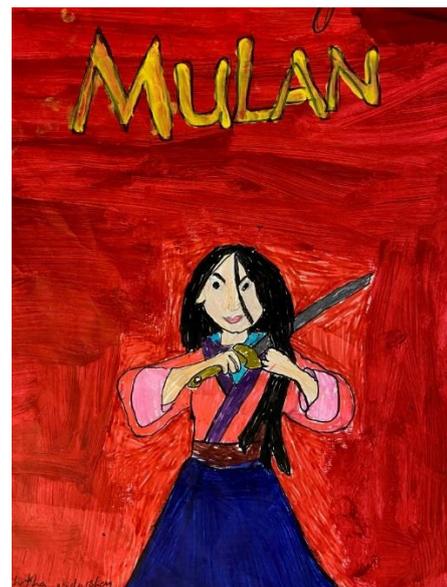
Our Book Week competition winners will receive their prizes on 23 October.

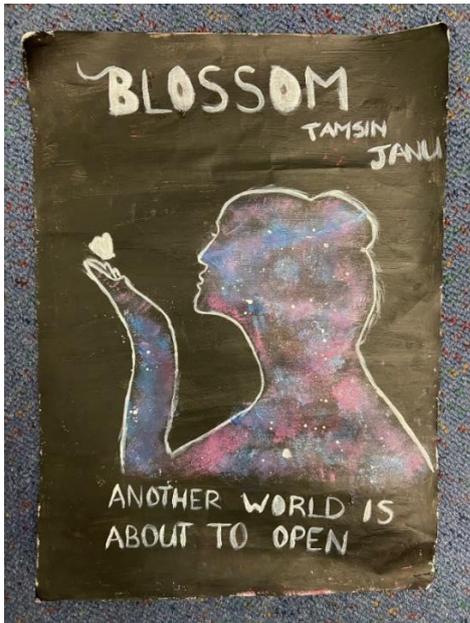
We have received an outstanding range of entries including creative writing, book reviews, posters and dioramas.



Our monitors putting up the display

Here are some of our favourites and as they say “a picture tells a thousand words”.





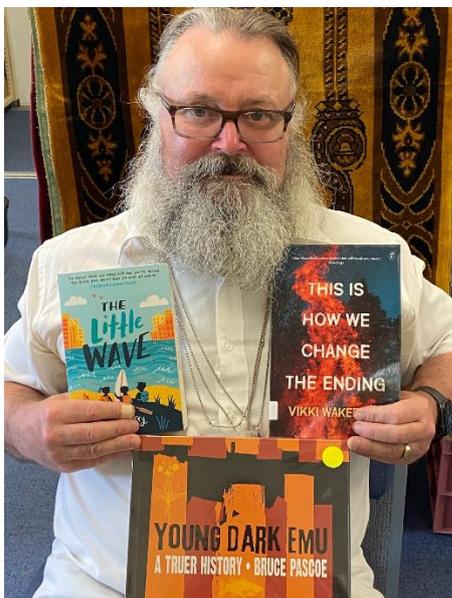
A Wrap for Syria - Thank you Ms Mezzino, Mrs Paul and Ms Hotton for contributions to this beauty!  
(10 inch knitted or crocheted squares always welcome).



Mr Davidson  
Teacher Librarian



A storyteller is always happy to see a diorama of the 1,001 Nights!



Mr Davidson with the Children's Book Council 2020 Winners for Older, Younger & Non Fiction categories

### PEPPERCORNS POEMS

Finding yourself by Zara Jalloul

*Drowned by the outside world  
Tuned into everyone else  
Changing with every step  
Failing to reach myself*

*Comes within my grasp  
Seen as a goal  
To find it's true colours  
Bleeding all over me*

*I scream  
I yell  
I plead for it back  
I want it  
Where has it gone?  
What has become of it?  
What happened to it?*

*Drowned by the outside  
Feeling like everyone is tuning into my head  
I plead for it back  
But it sprints in the other direction  
I need you back, I want you back*

For the Moon by Jesika Rawal

Your pale complexion.

Your dark hair, dark as the nights you meet me on.

Your gentle smile, softly beaming down on me.

On starless, empty nights, (*cold, cold, so cold, like I'll never be warm again*)

your presence reassures me.

When everything is silent and dark (*it feels like I'll never see the light again, like I'll be alone*

*forever, forever in darkness.*), all I have to do is stare at you.

Because no matter how bad life becomes (*despite the bruises, on every corner of my skin, like*

*a dirty ruined canvas, torn apart at by life*) you are there for me.

Even when sometimes I don't know if I want to stay.

Looking at you gives me hope (*hope that maybe living isn't so bad, hope that maybe just*

*maybe I actually want to live*).

So thank you Moon, for always being there, since I was a kid to now.

**FROM THE ENGLISH ROOMS...**

In a very challenging year, our Drama classes found the time to draw on our students' capacity to imagine and empathise with a range of characters and emotions. Below are some photographs that capture Year 10 performing their playbuilding pieces.

These two photos represent a tragicomic piece dealing with child marriage:



The photos below represent a modern adaptation of the fairy-tale, Cinderella:



In our HSC Extension English class, we are exploring Literary Worlds. Below is Nancy Au's captivating representation of what it means to enter new worlds, to encounter obstacles and challenges and use them to reflect, grow and transform as individuals. We hope that you love this interpretation of reading experiences as much as we do.



## L'ORÉAL – FOR GIRLS IN SCIENCE PRESENTATION 2020

On Monday 26 October, girls participated in the 2020 L'Oréal Women in Science forum. Traditionally, the forum was conducted at UNSW and was followed by a tour of the university and laboratory facilities. Unfortunately, COVID has required a change to the usual structure.

For 20 years L'Oréal has been sponsoring research fellowships for women to pursue their dreams with a \$25,000 grant. This year's 5 winners were introduced to the audience and given an opportunity to describe their journeys.

Dr Emma Camp is a coral Biologist and Geochemist from UTS who is studying extreme corals and how they can survive through climate change. She has looked at new areas of the ocean

and discovered corals that were previously unknown.

She investigated their features and was able to find that they survived better in changing environments than traditional corals and therefore were possibly more adaptable to the changing climate conditions. She talked about moving these corals out into the reef to ensure the coral reef survived, highlighting the need to be cautious and ensure we did not create more problems. She also talked about the health of the reef and described areas that were great and while other areas were very poor.

Dr Kate Nguyen from Melbourne talked about her research in making homes more resistant to damage as a result of bushfires. She described her research which used some waste products to develop a coating that could delay the damage caused by fires. Additionally, she described her cultural challenges and experiences that led her to pursue a career as an engineer and her wish to encourage her daughters to pursue a career in science.

Dr Adele Morrison from Sydney is researching the rate of ice melting and therefore prepare for the change and how we can slow the rate of sea level rise and therefore reduce the impacts on our survival.

She talked about warm currents that are causing the ice to melt. She explained that the majority of ice is currently underwater and the predictions made in 2004 have been shown to be correct today. She indicated that she believed we are tracking towards an 80cm increase in sea level. This would involve more flooding around the coast and more damage as a result of extreme weather events. She talked about the need to move to zero emissions to slow the rate of rising sea levels.

Dr Marzi Barghamadi from CSIRO Melbourne is working on the development of high energy lithium battery technology. She talked about the need to change the chemistry of batteries by replacing the anode with lithium to allow for more energy to be generated. These batteries could be used to store energy gathered from solar generation and in cars due to their lighter weight. She was attracted to the field by her lifelong passion for science. She described the area as male dominated with changes occurring slowly, especially at the higher levels. She felt one reason was the limited support for women as they move to having families.

Dr Shari Gallop from New Zealand talked about her work in modelling estuaries and ensuring they are preserved to allow for food production. She indicated that many cities are built on estuaries due to their access to plentiful resources. They are biodiversity hotspots and great filtering areas for the environment. Dr Gallop talked about the ability of estuaries to capture carbon and keep it out of the

atmosphere. Her career started as a beach scientist and then, as a result of having a family, refocused her work to looking at estuaries because of their impact on the environment.

The presentation then moved to a Q&A. The main theme of questions was how we could impact on the current climate trends and what challenges the fellows had faced. In summary, to reverse climate change the talk was about removing CO2 from the atmosphere. This could be achieved by planting more trees to absorb the carbon. There was discussion about a need to have commitment to all levels of government to ensure the damage was reduced.

All the fellows talked about finding a passion, receiving good training and then perusing a passion. They talked about the need to increase the support mechanisms to ensure we attract and maintain the best minds while supporting their family commitments. They highlight the need to develop a more flexible workforce to support scientists, not lower the bar. They also talked about the need to have mentors to guide them through their careers and ensure they had supervisors that understood and support them.

The take out was that although things were changing in several science areas to support women, there was still some way to go. However, the trend in Australia was promising and girls could do anything with the right support and commitment. They suggested girls follow their passion and ensure people do not stereotype them.

Mr Saule  
**Incursion organiser**

<b>BGHS Calendar</b>	
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Sign out day, 8:30am – 10am
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November	P&C meeting via Zoom, 5pm
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Formal
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 and Year 11 SLR 'Give Back' Gala Day at school
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 8 and Year 11 SLR 'Give Back' Gala Day at school

## 2020 ICAS ENGLISH ASSESSMENT



The results have arrived!



Congratulations to all students who participated in the ICAS English Assessment in Term 3.



Participating students may access their individual results and data in the Student Results section of the **UNSW Global portal**.

Certificates will be awarded on **Presentation Day**.

We look forward to students refining their skills and striving to achieve their potential in the **2021 ICAS English Assessment**.



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\*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information!

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, Berry Street and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information!

### Contact

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