



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations to the staff of Birrong Girls High School for the 2012 Director-General's School Achievement Award for Quality Teaching.

I am delighted to congratulate our dedicated, committed and highly professional staff who have received the 2012 Director-General's School Achievement Award for Quality Teaching.

This prestigious award recognises the significant role the school has played in improving student performance from Year 7 to Year 12.

Research has shown that the most important factor in determining a child's likely performance at school is the quality of their classroom teachers. Teachers at Birrong Girls are committed to working together to improve teaching practice, deliver high quality educational programs and provide meaningful and constructive feedback to students.

Significant improvement from Year 7 to Year 9 in student literacy and numeracy results, as well as outstanding student performance in the HSC, is testament to the effectiveness of this approach.

I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all our staff to ensure that these pleasing results have occurred. I acknowledge too the vital role of our students and parents in this success.

The Director-General of the Department of Education & Communities, Dr Michele Bruniges, acknowledged the school's success stating that the dedication and commitment of Birrong Girls staff was 'world-class' and that the school 'is a brilliant example of the strength of education in this state'.

Bravo!

NAPLAN results

In May this year all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia were tested in a series of literacy and numeracy tests.

This year the school's NAPLAN results have again maintained our high standards. I am delighted to congratulate our Year 9 girls on their growth in literacy and numeracy. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the dedicated and

talented teachers and supportive parents to ensure that these pleasing results have occurred.

The results for Year 7 indicate that since their test in Year 5 they too have made excellent progress; however, further improvement in the areas of reading and punctuation and grammar, as well as numeracy, must be a priority over the next 2 years. Teachers will use the NAPLAN data to inform their judicious use of the additional resources provided by the National Partnership Program to support those students not yet at national standards in these critical areas.

Parents of girls in Year 7 and 9 received the results of the NAPLAN tests for their daughter at the end of Term 3 and should contact the school if they wish to discuss any aspects of their daughter's NAPLAN results.

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Preliminary HSC

Year 11 students were privileged to enjoy a motivational talk last Wednesday by **Karen Choe-Fichte**, an **American diplomat** working at the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney.

Karen discussed the importance of overcoming barriers to success and drew on her life story to show that anything is possible. Her message inspired students to 'dream big' and have 'great expectations' despite constraints imposed by one's circumstances.



Year 11 students were particularly impressed by her courage, determination to make a better world and ability to relate to them at a very personal level.

Karen is a wonderful advocate for women and an outstanding role model.

HSC

Our Year 12 girls commenced their **HSC examinations** on **Monday 15 October** and will sit their last examination on Thursday 8 November. Students will return text books, sign-out and collect their school reference on **Wednesday 21 November**.

I look forward to celebrating the end of high school with them at the **Class of 2012 Formal** on **Thursday 22 November**.

We will all be relieved and delighted when the HSC results are published on **Wednesday 19 December**.

I wish the 2012 Year 12 girls the best of luck in their examinations and joy and success in their future studies and career paths.

Congratulations to...

- The newly elected **School Captain** for 2013, Iman Sayed Mahmoud, **Vice Captain**, Christina Le and **Sports Captain**, Amanda Ekechukwu and the 2013 **Prefects**: Leila Alameddine, Gulnaz Beg, Brearne Chen, Eman Gourani, Connie Land, Anke-Thy Nguyen, Riana Oliver, Prinita Thevarajah and Danna Wong. These students are outstanding role models and have displayed excellent leadership qualities throughout their high school years. I very much look forward to working with them over the next twelve months.



2013 Prefect Body

- The **Year 11 Hospitality** students and their teachers who catered for the Year 12 Graduation luncheon. Their wonderful skills helped make the day a memorable and happy occasion for our departing Year 12 class and their parents.



Year 12 Graduation luncheon

- Students who completed the **Premier's Reading Challenge**. Certificates will be distributed in November to the 70 students who completed the challenge.
- Students and teachers involved in the **Wrap with Love** initiative. Mr Davidson recently delivered 10 wraps to a warehouse in Alexandria. These wraps will be donated to children's homes and aged care facilities in Mongolia.

P&C meeting

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 24 October at 5pm in the Common Room**, following a presentation on **our NAPLAN results**.

I invite you to contact the school (Tel: 9644 5057) to make an appointment with me if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter's education. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Best wishes

Margaret Fletcher
Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome back to Term 4.

As the weather warms and the year moves towards summer, it is often easy for everyone to lose sight of the importance of Term 4. It is one quarter of the year and it is a time when one can be distracted from working hard towards future goals.

Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary Final examinations and are now preparing for the HSC. Students have received their reports and should spend some time reflecting on their performance and seeking help from their teachers to identify how they can best improve. The maintenance of nightly study habits and a clear focus on completing work to develop deep understanding is essential in achieving the best possible future outcomes. It is also important that students have a balance between family, study and extra-curricular activities. If students are experiencing difficulty in maintaining a balance or need assistance in setting goals, we encourage them to be proactive and seek help from Ms Waltho (Year 11 Adviser), Ms Salvagio (Head Teacher Welfare) or Ms Tselepi (School Counsellor).

Year 10 students have now selected their Preliminary HSC subjects after an extensive process of subject selection. Some 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 and 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 Austin, the Careers Adviser.

Year 9 students have recently received their NAPLAN results. These results will allow parents to reflect on some areas of their daughter's progress in some areas of literacy and numeracy. Overall, improvement was seen in all areas with the most improvement seen in the areas of grammar, punctuation and numeracy. Analysis of the results demonstrates that students who have been at this school over the past two years achieved the most improvement. It is important that students continue to work consistently at completing the work set by their teachers to ensure their skills continue to improve.

Term 4 provides Year 8 with an opportunity to work hard and prepare for their ESSA test during this term and NAPLAN test in Term 1 next year. The online ESSA test is scheduled to occur on Tuesday 13 November. Students should be revising their science work over the past two years and seek assistance where they experience difficulty. To help students improve their NAPLAN performance, teachers are currently developing class activities to help improve their skills in the areas of weakness identified in their previous NAPLAN testing. Regular time devoted to reading at home would help to improve students' greatest areas of need.

Year 7 also recently received their NAPLAN results. The areas of grammar and punctuation showed the most significant improvement with the area of reading being identified as the area of most need. To improve, it is vital that parents foster an environment which encourages reading. This could involve the provision of time at home to allow for quiet reading and discussion of their daughter's reading.

Parents are reminded that the homework centre is available for students to complete work and seek assistance when they experience difficulty. It operates on Mondays through to Thursdays from 2:50pm – 4:50pm in the school library and is supervised by qualified teachers from the school. This term will be a busy time studying for and completing assessment tasks and revision. Now is the time especially to work hard to ensure that Semester 2 reports truly reflect your daughter's efforts and abilities.

Every day your daughter should be designating time for homework, assignments and revision, as well as extra time for study and reading. By discussing your daughter's work you show an interest in her learning and assist her to achieve. This could involve regularly asking your daughter about what she has learnt each day and helping her to establish a study plan to achieve her goals. The highest achieving students always identify family support as a key element to achieving success and acknowledge that support accordingly.



Ad Astra! Aim for your very best this term!

Mrs George and Mr Saule
Relieving Deputy Principals

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES
AT BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

- At Birrong Girls High School students are expected to attend school every day unless there is genuine illness or reason for absence.
- If your daughter is absent from school you will need to contact the school via phone or reply text to explain her absence.
- **Your reply text should include your daughter's full name, roll class and a brief reason for the absence.**
- There will be no need for a written note once you reply to the text or contact the school via phone.
- Unexplained absences will appear on your daughter's report at the end of the semester.

EARLY LEAVERS

- If your daughter needs to leave school early for reasons such as dentist appointments she is to bring a note from you.
- The note should contain her name, the time she needs to leave school and the reason for leaving. This note should also provide a contact number and parent signature.
- **The note must be given to the Relieving Head Teacher Administration by 8:20am on the day your daughter needs to leave early. Your daughter will then receive an official Department of Education exit pass.**

LATECOMERS

- **At Birrong Girls classes begin at 8:30am.**
- Girls who arrive after this time are to go to the late room where their time of arrival is recorded. Girls will receive a blue late note for parents to complete. Once the blue late note is completed it is to be given to the Relieving Head Teacher Administration.
- **All late students must see the Relieving Head Teacher Administration at recess on the day of the late arrival. Detentions and letters to parents will be issued with persistent lateness.**
- If your daughter knows she will be late she is encouraged to bring a note to explain why.

TRUANCY

- There is an expectation at Birrong Girls High School that students take responsibility for their learning. This includes attending all scheduled classes.
- Teachers mark their class roll each lesson. If your daughter is absent from class but not on an excursion or the daily absentee sheet, her absence is reported to the Relieving Head Teacher Administration.
- Letters are sent home and phone calls are made to inform parents that their child has been absent.
- **All truancy issues will be documented on your daughter's school records and displayed on your daughter's school report.**

What do I do IF I AM GOING ON A HOLIDAY?

- **You must inform the school that you are going on a holiday. Do not just leave.**
- Your parents must provide a letter explaining where you are going, your date of departure from school and your date of return to school.
- If your holiday is for 2 weeks or more your parents must have a meeting with the Principal.
- Your parents must complete forms from the Department of Education.
- If you are going overseas you must bring a photocopy of the plane ticket.

What do I do IF I AM AT SCHOOL AND I FEEL SICK?

- **Never just ring your parents to pick you up.**
- Get a note from your class teacher to leave the room.
- You must then see Mrs Paul (Science) or Mrs Markkunen (Finance Office). They will contact your parents or family member.

We ask that parents monitor their daughter's attendance by recording in a diary or on a calendar the days that she has been absent from school.

Please ring the school or reply via text message when your daughter is absent to support the school in managing attendance.

If you have any concerns with your daughter's attendance please feel free to contact me at the school.

Thank you.

Ms Shinas

Relieving Head Teacher Administration

WELFARE MATTERS

Vaccinations

The final Year 7 vaccination date is Wednesday 14 November 2012. It is important for Year 7 students to be at school on this day to receive the second dose of the Hepatitis B and third dose of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccines.

Student Eyecare Program 2013

The school is pleased to announce that it will be running the Student Eyecare Program in Term 1 next year. An optometrist will be onsite during school hours to provide students with a comprehensive eye examination. The program's aim is to detect visual problems that may interfere with a student's learning abilities and subsequently hinder their academic potential. Information about the program and permission notes to participate will be issued to students later this term.



Mrs Salvagio

Head Teacher Welfare

FROM THE CAREERS ROOM

University

For the first time, the Academic Ranking of World Universities has placed five Australian institutions in the top 100, with 19 of Australia's 37 public universities making the top 500. The University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney and The University of Western Australia are all ranked in the top 100 universities. Australia now has the third highest number of universities in the top 100. This is an outstanding result when you consider that the top two countries have significantly more universities than Australia's 37. There are 4495 universities in the United States and 115 in the United Kingdom.

The aim is to have 40 per cent of young people attending university by 2025 and there are currently an additional 150,000 students grasping the opportunity of a higher education. In a changing economic world, Australia will need a much bigger pool of higher skilled and better educated workers for the jobs of the future. Increasing the number of graduates will boost Australia's productivity and ensure that the economy has the skilled workers it needs to meet industries demands.

TAFE Online Enrolments now open

If you intend going to TAFE, check out the TAFENSW website for the new online enrolment process.

TAFE colleges work closely with industry to provide training that meets the needs of employers.

- Students are now able to apply online for a large range of courses for Semester 1, 2013.
- Go to www.tafensw.edu.au. You can search for a course using keywords, then select the course you wish to apply for and follow the instructions.
- Places are limited and there are some courses with compulsory information sessions happening in November.

Apprenticeship and Traineeship Career Pathways

Group Training Organisations are there to help career seekers get the apprenticeship or traineeship that is right for them.

Making career decisions is not always easy. Group Training Organisations (GTOs) can provide the advice and the apprenticeship or traineeship opportunities that will get careers started. GTOs employ apprentices and trainees and place them with a host business until the apprenticeship or traineeship has been completed.

The national network of GTOs employs around 35,000 apprentices and trainees, making it Australia's largest employer network of apprentices and trainees. Over 100,000 businesses have used a GTO to employ their apprentices and trainees, and GTOs are seeking potential apprentices and trainees in many industries to fill their vacancies.

The Largest Employer Network of Apprentices and Trainees

Apprenticeships and traineeships offer the ability to 'learn and earn' from day one. They combine training and paid employment, leading to skills and qualifications that are recognised across Australia. Group Training Organisations operate in over 200 locations, including metropolitan and regional areas.



One-stop-shop

A Group Training Organisation is a one-stop-shop for unbiased information, advice and assistance in finding the right apprenticeship or traineeship. It is their job to understand what type of apprenticeship or traineeship will be a good match for the career seeker and the host business. Contact a GTO at www.grouptraining.com.au and find out how they can help.

Automotive career opportunity

Auto Skills Australia has just launched a new website, www.maapmyfuture.com.au. If you're thinking that the automotive industry is only about the car industry, think again. The automotive industry offers a broad and diverse range of careers that provide local, national and international career paths for trainees, apprentices and personnel in automotive manufacturing, retail, repair and maintenance operations, bicycles, motorsport, motorcycles, marine, sales, outdoor power equipment and much more. Interested students should go to www.mappmyfuture.com.au and select "Match me with an automotive career".

Year 10 Work Experience Block 2: Your second block is from 19 November – 23 November 2012 and the fully signed Work Experience forms should have been completed. This is a great opportunity to test out your potential future career.

Ms Austin
Careers Adviser

MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

The Australian Mathematics Competition for 2012 allowed some of our exceptional students the opportunity of a challenge against the best in the state.

Congratulations to Sandra Dang for receiving the **Prudence Award**.

Congratulations to Vyvy Nham (Year 7), Sandra Dang (Year 8) and Anna Ung (Year 9) all of whom have received **Distinctions** this year.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Huynh, Cindy Dang, Christina Ta, Hafsa Abbasi and Linda Tran (Year 7), Lily Thai and Michelle Truong (Year 8), Jasmine Tran, Vivian Chau, Christine He, Cindy Chen and Kristine King (Year 9), Malak Alameddine, Anita Trieu, Phuong Mai Tran, Carol Su, Vivian Le, Sally Thai, Kelly Huang, Kim Duong, Aditi Jalandhra, Amy Nguyen and Anna Nikoloiouk (Year 10), Hong Luu and My-Tien Hong (Year 11) and Karen Nguyen (Year 12), all of whom have received **Credits** this year.

Congratulations to all 72 students who participated.

Mr Dimassi
Competition Coordinator

MATHEMATICS INCURSION

On Friday 31 August, Year 7 students had a mathematics incursion. We all had fun trying to solve puzzles and questions. There were a lot of practical games that were interesting and difficult, and one where we had to untangle ourselves out of some chains and it was very tricky. There also was a game where we all had to use our brains and think a lot. For example, try this: 2 fathers went on a fishing trip and brought their sons. But only 3 people went. Can you figure it out? We worked it out with the help of the Year 7 mathematics teachers.

By: Tania and Keisha, 7H



Year 7 Mathematics incursion

BGHS BUSINESS BRUNCH Wednesday 5 September 2012



Business Brunch attendees, performers and chefs



Guests from TAFE and staff from BGHS discussed links between TAFE and our school



Musicians at the Business Brunch provided wonderful entertainment for guests



Year 12 Hospitality students and Ms Vassos (not pictured) provided a beautiful buffet brunch. It was the last time that these students would have the opportunity to cook for a school function.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

School assemblies celebrate the successes of all students. Students have received bronze, silver and gold medallions, Ad Astra pins, awards for their work in the Art Extravaganza and book prizes for the most "Egg-cellent" scientific solution to the problem of breaking eggs.

We encourage all students to celebrate their achievements at assemblies by redeeming their merit certificates for medallions and Ad Astra pins.



Award winners from our first assembly in Term 4

OUR BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL GROUNDS

Our school grounds are truly beautiful in spring. Students are encouraged to enjoy the flowering gardens and show great pride in our school by maintaining a litter free environment.



The white cedar tree is in full bloom



Students enjoying the school grounds

ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM NEWS

On 30 August the Environmental Team held a Father's Day stall where we sold chocolates, handmade cards, cupcakes, cakes and mugs filled with goodies for fathers! It was a huge success and attracted lots of students as well as teachers who purchased our homemade merchandise. The team raised more than \$190 in profit from the stall.

The profit raised was put towards a herb garden in which members of the team (Aditi, Sally, Sarah, Shanice and Tina) planted sage, basil, chocolate mint, oregano, lavender, marigold and chives. It was also used to purchase gardening equipment. The aim is to start a herb market in the future for both staff and students once the plants have fully grown to encourage healthy eating habits. The team members regularly maintain the garden and the team is planning to paint their garden boxes.



Some students from the Environmental Team at the new herb garden

Thank you to our groundskeeper, Noah, for taking time to purchase the herbs from Flower Power and setting up the garden bed. We would also like to thank our teacher, Ms Stachiw, for taking time to purchase the plants for the team.

By: Environmental Team



BERRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
on Wednesday, 24 October 2012
at 5pm in the Common Room
following a presentation
on our NAPLAN results

WOOGLEMAI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CAMP

Towards the end of Term 3, some students from our school had the opportunity to attend an environmental education camp. This was offered to many schools from the South Western Sydney region and we were fortunate enough to be accepted.

Upon our arrival, we felt welcomed by the staff and peers who were with us during the week. We attended different activities such as rock climbing, high ropes and kayaking. We also attended workshops to gain knowledge on environmental issues that concern our community today. We learnt a great deal regarding environmental issues and the aim was to bring back to the school suggestions for our environmental team to implement.

Whilst on the camp we met many students from other schools who were also there with the same objective.

Overall it was a highly enjoyable camp which we would recommend to anyone who is interested in outdoor activities and concerned about the state of our environment.

We would like to thank the staff and teachers who organised and attended the camp and enabled us to have such a wonderful experience.

By: Anna Nikoliouk and Vivian Le



Wooglemai Environmental Education Camp

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR *For your diary / noticeboard*

October:

Monday, 22nd October to Friday 2nd November

- Year 11 Business Services Work Placements

Wednesday, 24th

- P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

Thursday, 25th

- Year 7 Field Day

November:

Friday, 2nd

- Year 10 Science excursion to Questacon, Canberra

Monday, 5th to Tuesday, 6th

- 7G, 7C & 7S Learn to Swim Program at Birrong Leisure Centre

Thursday, 8th

- Last day HSC exams

Monday, 12th to Tuesday, 13th

- 7B & 7H Learn to Swim Program at Birrong Leisure Centre

Tuesday, 13th

- Year 8 ESSA Online Test

Wednesday, 14th

- Year 7 Vaccinations

Thursday, 15th

- Year 5 Enrichment Day

Monday, 19th to Friday 23rd

- Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday, 21st

- Year 12 Sign-out, 8:30am – 10:30am

Thursday, 22nd

- Year 12 Formal

Friday, 23rd

- Year 11 Crossroads course

Wednesday, 28th

- P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

Thursday, 29th to Friday, 30th

- Year 10 Camp



PARENT TIPS

Staying safe online

Cybersmart is an education program for parents and children of all ages. It features tips on mobile phone and online safety, resources to use with your child, and games and videos that support key cybersafety messages. Go to: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

Tax and Super essentials

Tax, Super + You is an online resource that uses interactive videos, quizzes and forums to help students learn essential financial skills, such as applying for a tax file number, lodging tax returns and understanding super. The site also explains why tax is collected and where it goes. Go to: www.taxsuperandyou.gov.au

MP3 players and hearing loss

If your child can't hear you talking when they're listening to their MP3 player, then their music is up too loud. Find out what you can do to help protect your child's hearing. <http://www.schooltoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/mp3-players-and-hearing-loss>

Cycling in safety

Knowing how to ride safely is crucial for all riders. This useful NSW Government summary provides tips on the right safety gear to get as well as clearly written information on how to stay safe on two wheels. Go to: http://bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au/riding_safely/10_tips_for_cycling.html

Getting roadworthy

Getting a driving licence is high on the list of priorities for many senior students, and the *Geared* website can help them get on the road armed with the information they need to stay safe. Go to: <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/geared/>

Swimming for survival

Help keep your child safe this summer at Swim and Survive programs for all levels. The programs, taught by experienced, AUSTSWIM-qualified instructors, run November to February throughout NSW. <http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive/>

FIToberfest



FIToberfest is a brand new initiative by Bankstown City Council which celebrates health and fitness during the month of October.

Council has partnered with many local organisations from the recreation and leisure community in order to provide events and activities for free or at discounted costs. There are lots of activities for school children to be able to participate in throughout the month.

Some of the activities for FIToberfest include:

- Free multi-sports days for kids
- Free cycling clinics
- Free Golf activities at Sefton Golf Course
- Free Outdoor fitness sessions
- Discounts and promotions to local fitness facilities



For more information about getting involved in future editions of 'FIToberfest' and upcoming Active Bankstown events, contact Council's Recreation Officer on 9707 9999 or visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Living with Teens

Starting Thursday 18th October 2012
10am - 12.30pm and running for 6 weeks

The "Living with Teens" program created by UnitingCare will give parents the tools and ideas to assist them in having positive relationships with their children.

- On the road to Adulthood
- Your teenage experience
- Self Esteem
- Dealing with difficult behaviour
- Talking with Teens
- Preparing for what is ahead

Where – Barnardos Auburn Children's Family Centre
18-24 Kerr Parade, Auburn
FREE Morning tea and childcare
(children 5 and under) will be provided.

Each participant will have the opportunity to attend a family outing with their children at the end of the course!



Contact Alarna for registration and further info: 9646 2770

