



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

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November 2012

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2012 has been another wonderful year at Birrongo Girls High School. The determined efforts of students and dedication of staff have contributed to a strong, positive learning culture that is memorable for its outstanding achievements.

Yearly reports reflect these achievements and will be distributed to Years 7–10 during Week 10 of this term. Reports include comments from teachers which indicate strengths and areas requiring improvement. Students should read their reports carefully and heed their teachers' advice to help overcome any issues experienced with their school work. It is also important to reflect upon the 'Application to Learning' section of the report. It indicates the extent to which a student works to the best of her ability and applies herself to the demands of her subjects. All students should be achieving 'always' in this section.

We will meet our Year 7 students for 2013 on Wednesday 5 December at their Orientation Day. Michael Grose, regarded as one of Australia's leading authorities on parenting, will present a workshop on the Orientation Day where he will discuss strategies and ideas for our new Year 7 parents on coping with adolescents. We have enrolled more than 120 Year 7 students; clearly, families in the local community are aware of the high quality teaching and learning at Birrongo Girls and want their daughters to be part of the success. Our strong reputation as an exemplary learning environment, reinforced in achieving the prestigious Director-General's Award for Quality Teaching, has certainly sparked additional interest in enrolments for 2013.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY

An invitation is extended to all parents and students of Birrongo Girls High School to attend our

Annual Presentation Day on

Monday, 17 December 2012

Please arrive 11:45am for 12:00pm start

The venue for the function will be
**Bankstown Sports Club Showroom
8 Greenfield Parade
Bankstown**

On Monday 17 December we will celebrate the outstanding academic, sporting and extra-curricular achievements of our students at our Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club from 11:45am. Parents and friends are warmly invited to attend this very important recognition ceremony.

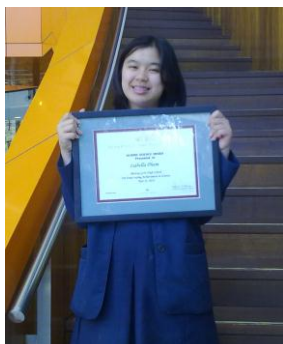
We are now anxiously awaiting this year's HSC results which will be released on 19 December. The Year 12 class of 2012 has worked hard for the HSC and deserve to do well. Regardless of their results and ATAR scores, Year 12 students are well placed to lead productive, fulfilling lives as active, informed citizens. Our values of personal excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, understanding, tolerance and inclusion, and integrity will serve them well in their future pursuits. They can be proud to have been students of Birrongo Girls High School.

Congratulations to...

- Year 8 for their extraordinary skipping efforts in raising over \$2000 for the Heart Foundation.
- Anna Nguyen and Emily Webb (Year 9) who will be awarded medals by the Department of Education and Communities as recognition of their outstanding commitment to reading in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Only 161 students will be receiving medals across NSW so this is indeed an achievement.

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- Anna Nikoliouk and Vivian Le (Year 10) who have been recognised by the Department of Education and Communities for environmental leadership.
- Isabella Pham (Year 11) who received the Victor Chang School Science Award at a ceremony last Tuesday.



Isabella with the Victor Chang School Science Award

- Iman Sayed Mahmoud (Year 11) who was an outstanding ambassador for our school as a compere at Director's Choice.
- Lauren Caunter (Year 11) who was placed second in the inaugural Scottish dancing competition.
- Lily Huang, Mishty Lal and Vicky Wong (Year 12) who have been successful in winning scholarships to study business courses at Sydney University.

Thank you to...

- All the teachers and the administration staff who have worked with great dedication and commitment throughout 2012. Their tireless efforts contribute greatly to the dynamic, exciting and happy learning environment that very much characterises Birrong Girls High School.
- The Deputy Principals, Ms Crossan and Mrs George, and all our Head Teachers who have given me enormous support during the time I have acted as relieving principal; their talent, creativity and hard work are greatly appreciated.
- The small and dedicated band of parents who contribute their time and energy to the school's P & C.

P & C meeting

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the final P & C meeting for 2012 which will be held on Wednesday 28 November at 5pm in the Common Room. We will be discussing the school plan for 2013 and your involvement in this process would be most welcome.

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish you all a very happy, safe holiday, a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Best wishes.

Margaret Fletcher
Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

As the school year for 2012 draws to an end, it is a great time to reflect on personal and whole school community achievements.

Foremost is our award from the Director-General of Education for Quality Teaching. Birrong Girls High School teachers take enormous pride in the quality of the teaching which occurs in each classroom. Our ongoing Quality Teaching Partnership with Newcastle University continues to improve the effectiveness of lesson delivery and assessment of student understanding and assists teachers in improving the quality of their feedback to students.

In addition to this, during the year, we were honoured to receive the Twenty Year Pierre de Coubertin Award acknowledging the excellent participation of our students in sport. Birrong Girls High School was one of only two schools in the state to be presented with this esteemed award.

97% of our classrooms now have interactive whiteboards which provide students with increased and varied opportunities for their learning. Interactive whiteboards assist teachers in bringing the lesson content to life enabling students to see, experience and understand concepts that in the past have often been difficult for them to visualise.

During Term 4, Year 7 students have experienced and enjoyed Field Day and Swim School. These events provide opportunities for students to demonstrate skill development, teamwork and personal leadership skills, while at the same time having fun.

Year 8 students participated in the ESSA online Science test during Week 6, and recently enjoyed the planetarium presentation. All students concluded their selection of elective subjects for 2013.



Year 9 students were wonderful ambassadors for the school when they assisted at the Year 5 Enrichment Day, escorting and supporting the Year 5 students to all activities for the day.

Year 10 students pioneered another significant change this year completing their work experience in two blocks instead of at different times throughout the year, as has been done in the past. The success of organising work experience in blocks has been due to the organisation of Ms Austin, the new Careers Adviser, and to the dedicated Year 10 teachers who visited and mentored students whilst they were out in the *real world* of work.

Year 10 students will remain hard at work after camp in Week 8, as they complete *All My Own Work*, a mandatory Board of Studies requirement for all students entering Year 11. All Year 10 students will conclude the year with leadership training.

Year 11 participated in the mandatory Crossroads program last Friday. The day provided students with a greater understanding of the outcomes, both positive and negative, of personal choices in various life situations. The students experienced presentations by young adults whose lives have been affected by risk taking behaviours and poor life choices.

The last day of the year for all students is Wednesday 19 December. All students are expected to be at school on time every day in full school uniform up until that day.

Ms Crossan and Mrs George
Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

WELFARE MATTERS

Student of the Month Award

Congratulations to Iman Sayed Mahmoud of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for October 2012. She has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to the school community. She is an excellent role model to her peers, showing strong leadership together with diligence and excellence in all aspects of schooling.



Iman has carried out exceptional and valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement as the leader of the school Media Team, as a Peer Reading tutor, a Peer Support leader and especially in her recent role as School Captain for 2013. Iman has commendably represented the school at various events such as the Youth Leaders' Conference and the Parliamentary Forum. She has proudly and honourably represented the South West Sydney Region as the Ambassador for Public Education in 2012.

Year 5 Enrichment Day

On Thursday 15 November, Year 4 and Year 5 students from five local primary schools participated in a whole day enrichment program where they took part in various interesting activities such as baking muffins, playing music and sporting games, creating artwork and participating in a challenge quiz.



The students had a lot of fun creating pinch pots

The schools' Welfare Team members would like to thank all the parents and guardians for their support and encouragement of our students over the year. We wish all the students and their families a wonderful school vacation and look forward to a successful 2013 school year.

Ms Salvagio
Head Teacher Welfare

ATTENDANCE REPORT

I am very pleased to report that 140 Year 7-9 students have been invited to the Attendance Activity Day on Monday 10 December at Teen Ranch. This excursion is to reward and celebrate their commitment towards their own education. Congratulations girls and THANK YOU for your positive contribution towards education in 2012.



The motto is:
YOUR ATTENDANCE REWARDS YOU!

Ms Shinas
Relieving Head Teacher Administration

FROM THE CAREERS ROOM

Good luck to the HSC class of 2012

All students will receive the HSC results from the Board of Studies on 19 December and the ATAR from UAC on 20 December.

The NSW DEC provides a free Careers Advisory Service from 20-24 December (9am – 5pm) to help with HSC leavers' decision making. Go online: www.cas.nsw.edu.au or call 1300 300 687 for free advice.

If you are applying through UAC you have until 4 January to change your preferences.

If you want to study at TAFE in 2013, online enrolments are now open and a number of Year 12 students have already enrolled:

Don't leave it too late to apply!

- 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

Contact a GTO at www.grouptraining.com.au and find out how they can help.



Year 12 2013

I have already organised a number of lunchtime presenters to talk to the girls about TAFE and University.

These talks are advertised in the daily announcements. Please encourage your daughter to attend these guest talks, as they can assist in planning for the future.

Year 10 Work Experience Block 2

The second block from 19–23 November provided a great opportunity to test out potential future careers. Please sign your daughter's diary and complete the short evaluation.

Year 9 2012

All Year 9 students have had the opportunity to prepare a resume and apply online for a job at McDonald's. In 2013 all students will have two Work Experience blocks: 18-22 March and 18-22 November.

Forms for the first block are due back (fully signed by the student, employer, parent and principal) by 19 December 2012.

Careers Overview

I have also used blogED to teach classes to all students in Years 7-10 and I have interviewed Year 12 and most Year 11 students. Parents can see the work their daughters have produced on blogED by asking their daughters to show them the blog.

Any student who has a question about their future please feel free to make an appointment to see me.

Have a great holiday, and I look forward to working with your daughters in 2013.

Ms Austin
Careers Adviser

UTS:LAW OPEN DAY

On 8 November, myself and 3 fellow Year 11 students attended the UTS:LAW Open Day. We met at Birrong Station and departed early in the morning, long before any of us should've been awake.

As we arrived we were greeted by law graduates who gave us our name tags and bags full of merchandise and materials that would be used for our courses. We were served morning tea and were introduced to the day and the program to follow. We first played a game of bingo to break the ice with all the other schools attending. We then split up into our separate groups and attended a mock trial. For this we needed to prosecute a fake offender, and try to find him guilty. We did, and the Birrong team emerged with a victory! We then listened to a brief session on human rights. Next, we were served lunch, and it was amazing! There were lovely gourmet sandwiches, drinks and even cupcakes. Lunch gave everyone the chance to mingle with other schools. Our last session consisted of a simulated mediation session between various disputing sides. Following this, a law and crime writer spoke to us about how much she enjoyed writing about crime and wickedness, and even handed out a copy of her mini book about crime and wickedness.

All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed the day and would highly recommend it to anyone interested in studying law. We all had a great time and came back with wide grins on our faces.

By: Eman Gourani, Year 11



Year 11 students were assisted by a law graduate at the UTS:LAW Open Day

7B's CHICK EXPERIENCE

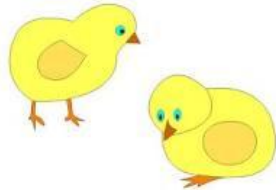
This term, our class, 7B, had the privilege of taking care of 8 baby chicks. This project was part of the topic that we are learning this term: *Living Things*. Although we started off with 10 eggs, only 8 chicks hatched.



7B students with the chicks and Ms Rothwell

Throughout the 2 week project our class acted as the chicks' mothers: feeding them, cleaning them, weighing them (we kept a record of this), looking after them and watching them play, grow and develop. We even named the chicks and tried to tell them apart. Looking after the chicks and getting to know them was an amusing, interesting, educational and a memorable experience for 7B. It extended our knowledge about living organisms, as well as teaching us all about responsibility. Although we only spent a short 2 weeks together, our class will really miss the chicks. On behalf of our class and Year 7 we would like to thank the school and our Science teacher, Miss Rothwell, for this unique and enjoyable opportunity.

By: Linda Tran and
Natasha Luu, 7B



TRANSPORT NEWS

2012 School Rail passes will be recognised for travel as a 'flash pass' (to be presented to CityRail staff for access via the wide gate) for the first 2 weeks of the 2013 school year, until Friday 15 February 2013.

The school will distribute 2013 School Rail passes to eligible students, in year group order, at the beginning of the new school year and within the above timeframe.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

In Week 4, Year 9 PASS students and all of Year 8 participated in the Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off.

Jump Rope for Heart is a program run by the Heart Foundation that focuses on learning how to keep fit and healthy. It improves strength and confidence in physical activities and builds healthy bones and muscles. By fundraising they will be helping save Australian lives. Funds raised go towards research to help the fight against heart disease and stroke.

Students gathered on the new courts and were taken through a series of skipping activities to improve their skills and fitness. Groups were aiming to jump as much as possible and teams were competing with each other to score the most jumps.

A lot of fun and laughter was had on the day and many funds were raised to be donated to the Heart Foundation. Over \$2000 was raised by Year 8, with special mention of the following students who raised over \$100: Izaya Souter 8B (\$170.40), Raihana Wazefadost 8B (\$118.60), Alex Mai 8B (\$104.00) and Zara Khalid 8H (\$101.00).

The Heart Foundation could not continue their life saving research without these donations and Birrong Girls High School is very proud to be part of this very important program. Last year the school received an award from the Heart Foundation to thank the school for its involvement in the Jump Rope for Heart program for the past 20 years.

Ms Boyle
PDHPE Faculty



An energetic afternoon of skipping

SPORTS REPORT

Well done to all the girls for their excellent contribution to Jump Rope for Heart. Thank you to Ms Boyle for her organisation.



Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off

Swim School was an enormous success again this year, with Year 9 PASS students coaching and leading and Year 7 students gaining confidence in the water. Several Year 7 students can now swim competently and have learnt essential skills of water safety and rescue. Thank you to Ms Waltho and Mr Thomas for their organisation.

Congratulations to Lauren Caunter who achieved success for her excellence in Scottish dancing in the recent weeks. Lauren placed second in the inaugural Scottish dancing competition and has moved to the intermediate level.

Mrs Lord
Head Teacher PDHPE

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Year 11 students were instructed and entertained on Tuesday 20 November by the well-known poet and author, **Peter Skrzynecki**. He used his poems as prime examples to explore the HSC English topic of "Belonging". As well as giving our students insight into his poetic vision, he also exposed us to detailed visions of the immigrant experience.

After the session we interviewed Mr Skrzynecki on the path that he took to develop his consciousness and skills of poetry. He particularly spoke of his love of 19th century romantic poetry but when asked about his advice for young poets, he simply said, "Read, read, read". Mr Skrzynecki stressed how important it was to not only read English but world literature in translation.

More on his visit will be included in the next Birrong Bulletin.

Victor Davidson
Teacher Librarian

Throughout Semester 2, targeted classes from Years 7-10 have worked with published author, **Laurine Croasdale**, as part of the "Writers in Residence" program. In the workshops provided by Ms Croasdale, students have worked on developing their skills in creative writing, character development and narrative structure through brainstorming, group work and visual stimulus exercises. Students have also shared their ideas with both staff and their peers in an informal and collaborative environment.



The workshops have provided BGHS students with the opportunity to work with a recognised author and recognise the potential in their creative ideas as well as instruct them and provide them with the tools to build and develop their ideas into effective pieces of writing.

Ms Croasdale has found her experience at BGHS very enjoyable and has found the students "receptive and fun". She also commented on the general "buzz" of the school and our students' "love of the story".

Mr Trott
English Faculty

PARENT TIPS

Movies and books

Is your child a reluctant reader? Why not try helping them find the book that goes with a movie or DVD they've enjoyed, or are about to see. Encouraging your child to read can help them to build their imagination.

For tips and ideas:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/how-movies-can-inspire-kids-to-read>

Mobile behaviour

What do parents need to know about sexting – the use of a mobile phone to send sexual images or messages? Learn about the consequences and get tips to help you educate your child.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/sexting-what-every-parent-should-know>

Working children

Is your child under 16 and about to be employed in some form of modelling, entertainment or photography work? You will need to know about the employer's obligations.

Find out more:

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/children-s-employment-1>

Budding artists

Young aspiring artists could get off to a great start by entering this competition to design the look for Youth Week 2013. Winners get to showcase their work and win \$1000.

Find out how to enter:

<http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/>



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
on **Wednesday, 28 November 2012**
in the **Common Room at 5pm**
following a discussion
of the school plan for 2013

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

For your diary / noticeboard

November:

Wednesday, 28th

▪ P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

Thursday, 29th to
Friday, 30th

▪ Year 10 Camp

December:

Wednesday, 5th

▪ Year 6 Orientation Day,
9.15am – 12.30pm

Monday, 10th

▪ Attendance Reward - Activity Day for selected Years 7-9 students at Teen Ranch

Monday, 17th

▪ Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club, 11:45am – 2pm

Wednesday, 19th

▪ Last day of the school year for students

Thursday, 20th

▪ School Development Day

Friday, 21st

▪ School Development Day

**Very best wishes for the festive season to all.
Enjoy the holiday break!**



January 2013:

Monday, 28th

▪ Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday, 29th

▪ School Development Day - staff return to school

Wednesday, 30th

▪ Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school

Thursday, 31st

▪ All other year groups return to school



Parents are reminded that the last day of the 2012 school year for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students at Birrong Girls High School will be **Wednesday 19 December**. School development days will be held on Thursday 20 December and Friday 21 December.

School development days at the start and end of semesters allow teachers to undergo further professional training.



Each week **Single with Children** provides fun and exciting activities for single parents and their children. (Many activities are subsidised or free)

It's a great way to meet and get to know people in your area.

To find out more and get a FREE copy of our social calendar

Call us today on
1300 300 496

Or check out our website:

www.singlewithchildren.com.au

Did you save your cash bonus for school costs?



Did you budget and use your cash bonus wisely?

Saver Plus provides **free financial education**, budgeting and savings tips to assist you in making your money go further!

Saver Plus will even match your savings dollar for dollar, **up to \$500** towards education costs. There's no catch!

To be eligible you need to have:

- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular household income, e.g. you or a partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work.

Contact Dani Dados at The Benevolent Society on
8700 2200 / 0421 136 620

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.



Attention Parents!

Do you want to learn new skills and increase your confidence?

Outreach at **Lidcombe College** is offering fee exempt TAFE courses for parents and adults:

- Computing (Keyboarding, Word Processing, Internet, Email)
- Office Skills including Resume Writing
- Soft Furnishing (Curtain Making)
- Upholstery
- Furniture Finishing (French Polishing)

Day and evening classes | Women only classes

For Information Session dates contact the Outreach Coordinator on 9643 4703

www.SWSi.tafensw.edu.au

M02/042

PARENTS CONNECT

ARABIC PARENT WORKSHOP



Bringing together Arabic Parents/Caregivers, School representatives and Community organisations to discuss ways to make it easier to be more involved in your children's educational and employment pathways.

Friday 30 November 2012
10.00am - 1.00pm
Punchbowl Community Centre
 44 Rossmore Avenue Punchbowl

Topics for discussion:

- Technology
- Language barriers
- Cultural barriers
- Finances



These topics will be discussed in detail with the assistance of representatives from Centrelink, Bankstown Council, TAFE Outreach, DEC, Dress for Work, Creating Links and The Benevolent Society - Saver Plus Program.

FREE CHILD MINDING

To register for child minding or for more information, call Turkan 9707 9863.





Bankstown's **FREE** Bus to Beach

Bankstown City Council will provide free buses to Cronulla Beach for young people and their parents/ guardians on:

- **Tuesday 15 January 2013**
- **Tuesday 22 January 2013**
- **Thursday 17 January 2013**
- **Thursday 24 January 2013**

BUSES 1 and 2 will depart at:

- 9am - The Roundabout Youth Centre, cnr Helen Street & Carlingford Rd, Sefton;
- 9.15am - Greenacre Neighbourhood Centre, 171a Waterloo Rd, Greenacre; and
- 9.30am - 69 The Mall, Bankstown (Paul Keating Park side, opposite Lincraft).

BUSES 3 and 4 will depart at:

- 9am - Panania Railway Station, Panania (Weston Street side);
- 9.15am - Revesby Railway Station, Revesby (Blamey Street side); and
- 9.30am - Padstow Railway Station, Padstow (Howard Road side).

All buses depart Cronulla Beach at 3pm SHARP and return to the pick-up points as above. **Bookings are not required with the program operating on a 'first come, first served' basis.**

For details visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact 9707 9605.

RISK WARNING

- Attention parents and carers, Council does not provide supervision;
- Inappropriate conduct or behaviour on the bus will not be tolerated;
- Council will not incur any responsibility or liability whatsoever for injury sustained to persons or damage/loss to property; and
- Council is not responsible for persons who miss the bus and will not make provisions for transport for these persons under any circumstances

FREE Youth Beach Volleyball Program

Join us for a day of fun in the sun at Bankstown's **FREE Beach Volleyball School Holiday program. Hop on Bankstown's FREE Bus to Beach and spend the day with professional coaches.**

DATE Thursday 17 January 2013

TIME Bus departs 69 The Mall Bankstown 9.30am sharp and will return to Bankstown around 3.45pm.

All participants must accompany Council staff on the bus to and from Cronulla Beach.

- Quality Coaching, demonstrations and drill progressions that produce results;
- Ideal for all levels, the clinic will help improve overall skills;
- A fun and friendly environment while learning the essential skills of beach volleyball; and
- Free lunch provided.

** Registration is essential and spots are limited**

Register online at www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call 9707 9605.

