



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057 Fax: 9644 8157

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May 2012

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents

School Development Day

At our Term 2 **School Development Day** on Monday 23 April our teachers participated in a series of workshops on literacy, technology and the school context. These highly successful workshops, led by experienced teachers from the school, provided a great professional opportunity for teachers to work collegially and collaboratively and learn from colleagues.

New Staff

I extend a warm welcome to some new members of staff: Ms Lord, Head Teacher PDHPE; Mr Sarna, Social Sciences; and Ms Tegova, Early Intervention. I am confident that they will settle into the school quickly and make a great contribution to our strong culture of teaching and learning.

My Leave

I will be taking Long Service Leave from 31 May until the end of the year so that I can undertake some very exciting travel to remote parts of Australia; however, I will return on Tuesday 29 January, the first day of the 2013 school year. I am pleased to announce that Ms Fletcher will be the relieving Principal during my absence and I am confident that she will have the full support of the school as she works to maintain our strong focus on quality teaching and learning.

Uniform Matters

Winter is here and so school jumpers and blazers, available from Berelle School Wear at Regents Park, become an important part of our uniform. Cardigans, jackets, hoodies, short sleeved school shirts with long sleeved undergarments or T-shirts of any colour are not acceptable. Our school community has very high expectations with regard to uniform because students wearing neat and tidy uniform present a very positive message about the school to the community. Please ensure that your daughter conforms fully to the school's uniform policy, a copy of which can be found in her school diary or on our website, and wears her uniform with pride.

Congratulations to:

- **Malak Alameddine, Aditi Jalandhra and Najwa Haydar** from Year 10, who each gave an excellent address to the whole school assembly held on the new covered courts on Tuesday 24 April to commemorate ANZAC Day. Thank you to Ms Corbin who made this ceremony very memorable by playing the Last Post and the Rouse on the trumpet for us.
- **Christina Le** who was presented with a Year 10 Academic Excellence Award for her achievement in 2011 at a ceremony held at the University of Sydney on 2 May.
- **Lily Huang, School Captain and Mishty Lal, Vice Captain**, who were outstanding ambassadors for the school at the 2012 Secondary School Leadership Program.



Mishty and Lily at Government House with Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales

Inside this issue:	Page/s
Principal's Report	1-2
Report from the Deputy Principals	2
Introducing the New Teachers	3
Head Teacher Administration Report	4
Welfare Matters	4
From the Careers Room	5
Next P&C Meeting	5
BGHS Leaders meet the Governor of New South Wales	6
Microscopes for Sierra Leone	6
Environment Team Update	6
Birrong Bounces into Knockout Basketball	7
Peer Support Report	7
Year 8 Science Excursion to Taronga Western Plains Zoo	8
Parent Tips	8
School Calendar	9
Saver Plus – Matched Savings Program	9
Midnight Basketball Bankstown	9
University News and Updates	10
Promoting Positive Parenting Seminars [in Vietnamese]	11
INSIGHTS by Michael Grose	12

Coming Events

- The 2011 Annual School Report, which can be found on the school's website, will be discussed in the Common Room **at 5pm on Wednesday 9 May. A meeting of the P&C** will follow this presentation in the Common Room. **All parents are encouraged to come along and have their say.**
- NAPLAN tests are scheduled for all students in Years 7 & 9 on 15-17 May.
- The school's **Cross Country Carnival (Years 7 & 8 only)** will be held on the school grounds on Friday 11 May and the **Athletics Carnival** will be held at The Crest at Georges Hall on Wednesday 30 May. Participation in such events is an important part of your daughter's experience at school. Please encourage your daughter to attend and get involved in the action.

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment (Tel: 9644 5057) 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.

Jenni Wilkins
Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

This is a critical time for our senior students as they set personal targets and put into place study plans to address the areas of weakness revealed in their semester one examinations. Now is *make or break* time to ensure that the marks students hope for can be attained in the Year 12 Trial exams or in the Year 11 Yearly exams. Teachers take a lot of care in marking and providing feedback about exam questions. Students need to analyse their mistakes carefully and ensure that they now understand how to answer all questions correctly. Class teachers should be asked for help if students need to improve their understanding of course content or to undertake extra tasks to improve their skills.

For parents, the beginning of Term 2 is the **perfect time** to help your daughter learn about **time management skills**. Many parents we speak to assume that if students are sitting in front of a computer, they must be doing homework or studying. Often the truth is different. Many students admit, more than anything else, that they use the computer for social networking. Last year in a survey of Year 9 students, many girls admitted they spent more than five hours a day communicating with friends and strangers using Facebook, Myspace, Formspring, MSN and other social networking sites. Unfortunately, often these sites are used for gossiping or bullying as well as communication between friends.

Research shows that adolescents who have family support in learning how to recognise and deal with issues such as setting personal limits and following time management plans do better at school and learn personal management skills for life. You can help your daughter by sitting with her and assisting her to set some short term goals, "What would I like to achieve this week?", and some longer term goals, "This term I need to..."



In the school diary you will find that pages 4 – 11 will help you and your daughter set short term goals and longer term goals, as well as targets for other areas of her life, such as sport, music or dance.

Term 2 is a busy term of assignments, assessment tasks, dance projects and extra-curricular opportunities. Use the table below to help your daughter set her study goals. Keep a copy pinned up somewhere in the house so that you can support her in achieving these goals. Remember, the suggested times in the homework table below are minimum times and there will be occasions when more hours are required for her to be fully prepared for assessment tasks, tests and examinations and to meet the course requirements.

Minimum Homework Times:

Year 7	1 hour homework/study, additional time for test preparation, assignments, <i>Mathletics</i> and wide reading
Year 8	1 hour homework/study, additional time for test preparation, assignments, <i>Mathletics</i> and wide reading
Year 9	2 hours homework/study, additional time for test preparation, assignments, <i>Mathletics</i> and wide reading
Year 10	2 hours homework/study, additional time for test preparation, assignments, <i>Mathletics</i> and wide reading
Year 11	3 hours homework/study and additional time for test preparation or assignments
Year 12	3 hours homework/study and additional time for test preparation or assignments

Remember: our HOMEWORK CENTRE is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:50pm to 4:50pm. This is an effective way to ensure that homework and assignments are completed with the help of teaching staff.

Congratulations to all the students who have already received merit certificates this year and who have represented the school in sporting and leadership activities. Congratulations too, to the members of the SRC and to our Prefects. The SRC and the Prefects exemplify what it means to be a **Birrong Girl**. Our student leaders truly are exemplary as the representative voices for our student body.

Ad Astra

Ms Crossan and Ms Fletcher
Deputy Principals

INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS

Chris Lord Head Teacher PDHPE

I am very excited to have joined the Birrong Girls High School staff in Term 2 as Head Teacher Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). I enjoy being in the classroom and believe students have the greatest opportunities to learn by having innovative, consistent and fair teaching practices. I have a Bachelor of Education in Physical and Health Education from Wollongong University.



I am looking forward to working with the wonderful Birrong girls and their families, the PDHPE faculty and the executive team and staff. I have been teaching for 17 years and have taken on a variety of positions at two very diverse schools. I started my career as a targeted graduate gaining an appointment at Narwee High School. I spent 6 years at Narwee High School taking on a variety of projects and initiatives, including relieving Head Teacher PDHPE/History and IM students. In 2000 I then took up a position as a PDHPE teacher at Cronulla High School. This included roles such as acting Head Teacher PDHPE, relieving Head Teacher Administration, relieving Head Teacher Teaching and Learning and leader of the Cronulla High School welfare team.

Some of my most enjoyable roles have been working as a Head Teacher of PDHPE, Metropolitan Sydney East Girls Rugby Manager, Coordinating the Tournament of the Minds, Writer for Machismo programs and Literacy programs and as Sports Coordinator and Year Adviser for six years.

I enjoy seeing students reach their potential and using technology to further student engagement. I make it my priority to recognise student achievement and communicate with parents and the community. I enjoy keeping myself and my family fit and healthy (including my two beautiful children) and have a very supportive family and friends. I have been lucky to have three very close and successful sisters, so I have a strong understanding of the importance of girls enjoying successful and fulfilling relationships. I enjoy working in a strong team environment and thrive on student, faculty and school achievements.

The Birrong girls and staff have already made me feel very welcome. I have had many smiles, waves and hellos! I am very excited to be starting a new chapter in my career and becoming a part of a very successful and thriving school culture. Please make sure you stop by and say hello to me in the PDHPE staffroom by the hall.

Mandeep Sarna Social Sciences

I joined the Social Sciences faculty at Birrong Girls High School at the beginning of Term 2. After working as a business analyst and accountant for 3 years, in 2009 I decided to retrain in education. I completed my Bachelor of Teaching in Secondary Education from UTS in early 2010. I joined Willyama High School in Broken Hill as my very first temporary placement. I have also worked at Macquarie Fields High School, JJ Cahill Memorial High School and James Ruse Agricultural High School.



I am very glad to be part of the Birrong Girls High School community. I look forward to assisting my students and extending their knowledge and passion in the fields of Geography, Commerce and Business Studies.

Diane Tegova Early Intervention Transition Officer



During Term One I joined the vibrant school community here at Birrong Girls High School. I am part of a team working to ensure all girls reach their potential and enjoy success and fulfilment in the classroom and in their ambitions.

I have been blessed with an interesting teaching career spanning 26 years: more than half of that time was at Kingsgrove North High School working as a Support Teacher for those with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. This proved to be a wonderful appointment where I worked closely with health workers, teachers, community agencies and parents, combining our energy and skills to help students. Previous to this I have worked as a Special Education teacher and ESL teacher for children and adults and have written competencies and technical handbooks for a variety of companies. I have also worked extensively in factories across Sydney, teaching English and accessing TAFE courses for migrant workers.

My aim is to work closely with the staff and community here and be a positive member of this hard working team. I am passionate about everyone having the opportunity to be their best and feeling good about themselves. I can be found in the Learning Support staffroom. I look forward to meeting you.

HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Attendance Update – On Time Arrivals

There was a minor improvement in the number of students arriving on time for school in Term 1. It is important that parents, students and the school all work together to ensure that optimal learning is achieved without the disruption of students arriving late to class.

If students are late they need to:

- bring a note from home explaining why they are late
- sign in and obtain a blue late slip from school staff
- see Mrs George at recess on the day that they are late

All blue late slips must be signed by the parent/caregiver and then returned to Mrs George for processing. All late arrivals will be displayed on your daughter's school report.

Please be aware that phone calls are made and letters will be sent home to parents/caregivers of students who regularly come to school late.

Absent Students – Text Messaging System

The text messaging system has been in operation for one full year. I am pleased to report that it has proven to be a very valuable tool in tracking student attendance. If your daughter has been absent from school you would have received a text message from the school that asks you for a reply text. It is very important that you make contact with the school at your earliest convenience via text reply or a phone call so that your daughter's school records can be updated to justify her absence.

The effectiveness of the text messaging system in ensuring the safety of your daughter relies on you responding to the text by explaining the nature of your daughter's absence, her name and roll call class.



If you change your mobile phone details it is very important that you inform the school immediately.

If you have any concerns about the text messaging system please contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs George
Head Teacher Administration

WELFARE MATTERS

Vaccinations

The Year 7 vaccinations took place on 22 March. We had 72% of Year 7 receive the first dose of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. If students were absent on 22 March the Area Health nurses will be able to give the first dose of the HPV vaccine when they return to our school on 1 June. If your daughter did not return her signed consent form for the HPV vaccine last term, she will need to hand it in to Mrs Salvagio no later than 25 May.

Vaccination dates are:

- 1 June - Year 7 Vaccines offered: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) and Human Papilloma Virus (2nd dose).
- 18 June - Year 7 Vaccine offered: Varicella (Chickenpox). Year 10 Vaccine offered: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis.
- 14 November - Year 7 Vaccines offered: Hepatitis B (2nd) and Human Papilloma Virus (3rd dose).

Student of the Month Awards

Congratulations to Vicki Wong of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for February 2012. She has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to the school community. She is a diligent and enthusiastic student who strives to achieve her best with determination and a positive attitude in all aspects of schooling.



Vicki has carried out exceptional and valuable school service over many years through her active and dedicated involvement as an SRC member, a Peer Mediator, a member of the Debating team, a Peer Support leader, an Amnesty International team member and currently a member of the Prefect body.



Congratulations to Rachael Roberts-Richmond of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for March 2012. She has demonstrated outstanding commitment and perseverance to attain personal and educational success. She is a determined and diligent student who strives to achieve her best and has a positive and caring attitude in all aspects of schooling.

Rachael has enthusiastically carried out valuable school service through her active involvement in various school teams such as the SRC, Amnesty International, Film and Photography and Debating teams. She showed initiative by leading the "Pledge to Stop Littering" campaign as a member of the Environment Team.

Mrs Salvagio
Head Teacher Welfare

FROM THE CAREERS ROOM

Years 10, 11 or 12

There's still time to register for [Your path to Sydney Uni: an information evening for parents, students and teachers.](https://events.sydney.edu.au/office2/getdemo.ei?id=20256&s=_7YS0P0EW1)
https://events.sydney.edu.au/office2/getdemo.ei?id=20256&s=_7YS0P0EW1

When: Wednesday 9 May 2012, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Where: Revesby Workers Club
2B Brett Street, Revesby
You do not need to be a member of the Club to attend this event

Hear from **Corey Payne** and current students about how studying at the University of Sydney opens doors to many career opportunities. Find out about the \$65 million of scholarships and the alternative entry schemes available to you. Be in with a chance to win tickets to the NRL Grand Final, double passes to a Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs home game and a signed Bulldogs Jersey!

This event would be good to attend no matter which university you might want to attend in 2013, 2014 or 2015!

Year 12

During the school holidays Mishty Lal, Lily Huang and Vicki Wong attended the Sydney University Business School's Aspiring Business Leaders Day.

Lily reported, "It was an enriching experience being able to listen to experts talk about their fields of specialty." Mishty said, "It was a good opportunity to see how other students were going in their subjects, to see where we stood. Vicki wrote, "It was great to meet Sydney University lecturers and students and it gave me a great insight into what uni would be like next year."

Lily and Vicki each received a \$75 gift voucher following their participation in the University of Sydney Business School's market research with Year 12 high school students who are interested in studying Commerce or Economics at university. Lily said, "By participating in the survey it enlightened me to the possibilities of a tertiary education in Commerce", and Vicki said, "Participating in the survey was invaluable as it gave me the opportunity to learn more about the variety of degrees within Commerce and Economics."

All Year 12 students should be thinking about 2013: Do you want to be in work? (Apprenticeship? Traineeship?) or at a Tertiary Provider (Uni, TAFE or private RTO?).

You need to do some research at www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au



Year 12 students (with a representative from the Australian Careers Business College) begin to plan for life after Year 12

Year 10

I hope you all gained something of value from your Work Experience opportunity. You may have confirmed your career choice or you might want to think about something entirely different for your next block, from 19 – 23 November. You have lots of notice about the date so don't leave it to the last minute to ask an employer to sign your Student Placement Record. I think more schools will be doing Work Experience in November so get your employer organised now!

You also need to start thinking about your subjects for Year 11 and 12. You should select subjects you enjoy, not subjects your friends are doing, or subjects where you like the teacher (teachers can move). Find your passion and follow it.

Ms Austin
Careers Adviser



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
on **Wednesday, 9 May 2012**
in the **Common Room**
following a presentation
on the **2011 Annual School Report at 5pm**

BGHS LEADERS MEET THE GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

On 30 March we were invited by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, and the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of New South Wales to participate in the 2012 Secondary School Leadership Program for School Captains.

As guests of the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, we spent the first half of the day learning about constitutional and parliamentary proceedings while touring the Upper and Lower Houses of parliament. In the afternoon we listened to Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir express her faith in the future leaders of tomorrow and were provided with the rare opportunity to join her on the terrace of Government House for afternoon tea overlooking Sydney Harbour. Overall, it was a rewarding and enriching day which left us reflecting on our own roles as leaders of our school community.

By: Lily Huang and Mishty Lal
School Captain and Vice Captain

Editor's Note: We are certain the qualities which make Mishty and Lily such excellent leaders at school will stand them in excellent stead when they are recognised as leaders in the years beyond school.

MICROSCOPES FOR SIERRA LEONE

Students and staff at Birrong Girls High School have been amazing supporters of Sierra Leone and disadvantaged students there. They have generously donated books, resources, microscopes and computers. There is a great community spirit in this school which spreads to people on the other side of the world!

Athena Tselepi
School Counsellor



Mr Kumara, Mrs Tselepi and students with the microscopes to be donated to schools in Sierra Leone

ENVIRONMENT TEAM UPDATE

The Environment Team has developed a number of ideas already this year. The students participated in *Clean Up Your School Day* by running a poster competition aimed at encouraging students to keep the school grounds clean by not dropping litter. Many students and staff signed a pledge banner stating that they would now not drop litter. This banner was made by Rachael Roberts-Richmond and Samiha Elkheir (both from Year 12) which now hangs outside the canteen as a constant reminder of the school's beautiful environment and the importance of maintaining it.



Samiha and Rachael with the pledge banner

Term 2 will see some of the students of the team taking care of a raised garden area where a variety of herbs will be grown. The aim of this is to have a small herb market in the school grounds once a term where students and staff can buy fresh herbs to encourage healthy eating habits at home.

We were also very pleased and fortunate to have Rebecca Everett from the Bankstown City Council and TransPacific Waste Services spend a day at our school to speak to a variety of Geography classes across a range of years regarding the importance of waste management. Her presentation was very informative and the data she presented about the amount of waste an average Australian produces and what happens to it was a real "eye opener".

We look forward to the year to come and hope to participate in the Youth Environmental Network Conference, World Environment Day, a volunteer tree planting program and the EnviroInspiro video competition.

Suzanne Stachiw
Social Sciences Faculty

BIRRONG BOUNCES INTO KNOCKOUT BASKETBALL

On Thursday 22 March Birrong hosted John Edmondson High School for the first round of the Open Girls Basketball Knockout. It was a repeat of last year's match where Birrong travelled to John Edmondson High.

Birrong started strongly making the first basket and settled well into the match on our new courts. Our opponents rallied to take the lead and went to half time leading by two points. The match was on a knife's edge as the second half began. The visitors took a strong 8 point lead midway through the second half. A time out was called and the team regrouped. A few quick baskets and Birrong was within two points of the lead. But fatigue set in and the visitors scored some crucial baskets to finish the game 18 -14.

Most Valuable Player for the game was Patricia Diaz (Year 11) who scored the bulk of the points and was instrumental in controlling the play. Special mention also to Cindy Zhou (Year 10) who has demonstrated significant improvement from last year. Congratulations go to all the girls who displayed good skills and excellent sportsmanship at all times. We hope that the team will learn and go on to achieve improvement in future knockout competitions.



Mr Saule
Coach

PEER SUPPORT REPORT

Another successful year of Peer Support was completed at the end of Term 1 culminating in a fashion parade (which everyone raved about) and celebratory party where Peer Support Leaders and Year 7 students were able to mingle and discuss their time together.

In their final meeting I asked the Year 7 students to fill in a survey about their experiences. What they have written really sums up the purpose of the program:

"It was scary starting high school and I felt nervous at first. I was afraid I wouldn't make new friends or keep up with all the work. I feel like I fit in now and everything seems more familiar."

"When I started school I felt scared, worried and lost but now I feel more comfortable."

"I think Peer Support was really helpful."

"Peer Support gave me confidence."

"At the beginning I didn't really get involved because I was shy but further on I participated more."

"Peer Support was the best. I wish it didn't have to end because they made me so confident."

"Since coming to high school things have changed. I made new friends and with the help of Peer Support I feel more confident."

"I enjoyed Peer Support and I am sad that it has finished."

"I loved Peer Support."

"Because of Peer Support I feel much better about high school and I am more confident."



Year 7 students and their Peer Support Leaders

I would like to express my thanks to all of the Peer Support Leaders who worked tirelessly to help the new Year 7 students feel comfortable in their new surroundings and to the Year 7 students themselves for getting involved and proving themselves to be a great addition to the Birrong Girls High School community.

Mr Rolfe
Peer Support Coordinator

YEAR 8 SCIENCE EXCURSION TO TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO, DUBBO

On 28 March a group of 51 Year 8 Birrong girls went on a wonderful 2 day experience to Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo.

We participated in a number of fun activities led by instructors from the zoo and camped overnight in tents. We rode bikes around the zoo and saw wild horses, antelopes, giraffes, gazelles, elephants, hippos, Galapagos tortoises, wild boars, tigers, and many more.

The trip was a huge success. We enjoyed every bit of it from the beginning to the end; being around a fun and energetic group of girls and teachers made us feel very happy. I would do this all over again if I could. A huge thank you to Ms McDonald, Ms Rothwell, Mrs Paul and Mr Clark for taking good care of us.

By: Alissa Alameddine, Year 8



The giraffes were majestic



Students participated in a painting activity



Ms McDonald had a close encounter with a koala

PARENT TIPS

Help for carers

The NSW Carer Line provides access to information, registration for the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative, counselling services and a referral to a range of services for carers and the people they care for. Call 1800 242 636, 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Calls are free from fixed phones.

Homework and study tips

Homework helps distil and expand on concepts learned in the classroom. Relaxing, getting organised and using good time management are all ways to help make homework less of a stress for the whole family.

For a host of great tips that will have your teen blitzing their homework, see the School A to Z homework tips under the homework and study link:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips>

Tax rebate for school items

The Education Tax Refund provides up to 50% back on a range of children's education expenses. In the 2011-12 tax year, you could claim up to \$409 for primary students and \$818 for secondary students.

The Education Tax Refund now includes school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011, so items of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms approved by a school as its uniform may be claimed from 1 July 2012.

Keep your receipts for school uniforms and other education-related purchases so you can claim them at tax time. You will need them to calculate your refund and you may need to show them as proof of purchase.

The website www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au will help you decide if you are eligible and explains what you can claim and how to claim.



BIRRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR
For your diary / noticeboard

May:

- Monday, 7th to Friday, 18th
 - Year 12 Hospitality Work Placements
- Wednesday, 9th
 - Year 10 Geography excursion to Kurnell and Cronulla Beach
 - P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm
- Friday, 11th
 - School Cross Country Carnival - Year 7 period 2, Year 8 period 3
- Tuesday, 15th to Thursday, 17th
 - NAPLAN Tests (Years 7 & 9)
- Friday, 18th
 - Catch-up day for NAPLAN Tests
- Thursday, 24th
 - Zone Cross Country Carnival
- Wednesday, 30th
 - School Athletics Carnival at The Crest

June:

- Friday, 1st
 - Year 7 Vaccinations
- Wednesday, 6th
 - 2012 ICAS Science Competition in the school hall, period 1
- Monday, 11th
 - Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- Wednesday, 13th
 - P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm
- Thursday, 14th
 - SSW Regional Secondary Cross Country Carnival
- Monday, 18th
 - 2012 ICAS Writing Competition
 - Zone Athletics Carnival
- Tuesday, 19th
 - 2012 ICAS Spelling Competition (Year 7 only)
- Tuesday, 26th
 - Parent/Teacher Afternoon, 2-6pm
- Thursday, 28th
 - PDHPE Display
- Friday, 29th
 - Last day of Term 2



An initiative of ANZ and Brotherhood of St Laurence with The Benevolent Society

Do you have a child at school or are you studying yourself?

Our savings program could provide \$500 to assist with education costs

such as: computers, books, uniforms, school shoes etc

Saver Plus is a matched savings program where money you save is matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$500. It's free and delivered by The Benevolent Society in your local area. Adults with some paid work and a health/pension card, and who have a child in school or who are studying themselves may be eligible to join.

For information contact Dani Dados on 8700 2201 or 0421 136 620 or email: danid@bensoc.org.au



**MID BASKET
NIGHT BALL
BANKSTOWN**

Starts Saturday, 5 May – 30 June 2012

for eight weeks (except 9 June)

**@ Bankstown Basketball Stadium
7.30pm - Midnight**

FREE REGISTRATION!!

**Dinner and uniforms provided
and we bus you home**

If you're 12 - 18 years, register now!

register online:

www.midnightbasketball.org.au/locations/bankstown
or contact Melissa 9707 9092

Proudly supported by:

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**NO WORKSHOP
NO JUMPSHOT**





Open Days for 2012

University news and updates

New courses

University of Western Sydney

726570 – Bachelor of Midwifery

The Bachelor of Midwifery will develop midwives for the future who can integrate local and international knowledge for the benefit of pregnant and birthing women in Greater Western Sydney and beyond. Graduates will work in partnership with women (and their families) in order to provide effective “woman-centred” care. Students will need to have completed the NSW Health Special requirements for clinical practicum attendance. This new course will be introduced for 2013 admissions.

UWSCollege

729480 – Associate Degree in Creative Industries

The Associate Degree in Creative Industries has been designed to offer students the opportunity to develop relevant business management knowledge and skills within the context of creative industries. It is a course for people with a high level of expertise and technical skill, and creative industries professionals who seek a higher education qualification to support their career development experience. The new course will be introduced for mid-year 2012.

Course changes

University of Newcastle

480030/480040 – Bachelor of Arts

Majors studies are now Aboriginal studies, ancient history and classical languages, creative and performing arts, English and writing, film, media and cultural studies, French studies, German, history, human geography and the environment, Japanese studies, linguistics, philosophy and religion, politics and international relations, psychology, sociology and anthropology. Minor studies are Chinese. You can undertake electives in courses outside B Arts provided you meet the assumed knowledge requirements.

489980 – Diploma in Languages

Majors studies are now Classical Greek, French, German, Japanese and Latin. Minor studies are Chinese.

Australian Catholic University

Canberra campus 25 August
North Sydney campus 1 September
Strathfield campus 8 September

Australian Maritime College

Beauty Point campus 26 August
Newnham campus 26 August
Campus tours can be arranged by appointment. For further information call (03) 6324 9646

Australian National University

25 August
For campus tours call 1800 620 032 or email campus.tours@anu.edu.au

Canberra Institute of Technology

Bruce campus 25 August

Central Queensland University

Sydney campus 29 July
For campus tours or other information, call 13 CQUni (13 27 86)

Charles Sturt University

Every day

For campus tours/appointments and course information call 1800 DEGREE (1800 334 733) or visit www.scu.edu.au/campustour

Griffith University

Gold Coast 12 August

La Trobe University

Albury-Wodonga campus 5 August
Mildura campus 17 August

Macquarie University

8 September

Southern Cross University

For personalised campus tours and special events call 1800 626 481 or (02) 6620 3970

University of Canberra

25 August

University of New England

4 May

For personalised campus tours call 1800 818 865

University of New South Wales

Open Day 1 September

Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra 25 August

University of Newcastle

Central Coast campus (Durimbah) 18 August

Newcastle campus (Callaghan) 25 August

Port Macquarie campus – Information Night 30 August

University of Sydney

25 August

University of Technology, Sydney

UTS Information Day, Broadway campus 25 August

UTS Open Day, Kuring-gai campus 1 September

University of Western Sydney

Parramatta campus 26 August

University of Wollongong

For personalised campus tours and special events call 1300 367 869

For information on school visit days, contact individual institutions.

Out and about with UAC

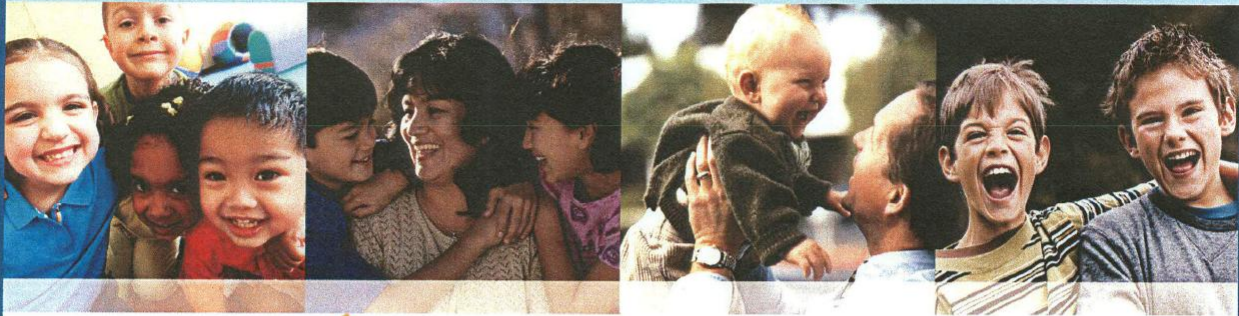
UAC will be attending a number of careers events over the next few months. Come and see us at the UAC stand we'll be happy to talk to you and your students and answer any questions you may have.

April	23	Western Plains Tertiary Info Day – Dubbo
	24	FACTS Day – Bathurst
3	Lower North Shore Careers Expo	
May	31 May–3 June	SMH HSC and Careers Expo – Moore Park
June		
3	Southern Districts University Info Day – Sutherland	
8–9	Illawarra Credit Union Careers Expo – Wollongong	
10–11	Northern Beaches Careers Expo – Terrey Hills	
14	St Ignatius College Careers Expo	
16	Tamworth Regional Careers Expo	
17	Hunter Valley Careers Expo – Maitland	
18–19	Newcastle Lake Macquarie Careers & Training Expo – Broadmeadow	
22	Forbes Tertiary Information Day	
	23	
	24	
	4	CBD Schools Careers Expo – Sydney
	5	Greater West Independent Schools Careers Expo – Penrith
	7	Macarthur Area Careers Expo – Minto
	18	Leeton Tertiary Awareness Day
	19	Wagga Wagga Tertiary Awareness Day
	20	Albury Wodonga Tertiary Day
	21–24	Western Sydney Careers Expo – Sydney Olympic Park
	26	Central Coast Career Pathways Expo – Cooranbong

See the May issue of UAC News for more info about these metropolitan and regional events in July and August.

Subscribe to Directions, UAC's e-newsletter at www.uac.edu.au/publications/newsletter/

Small changes,
big differences.



Những Buổi Thảo luận về
CÁCH DẠY CON TÍCH CỰC

Dành cho Phụ huynh người Việt có con em từ 0 đến 12 tuổi

Giúp Phụ huynh chia sẻ những tin tức và kinh nghiệm thực tiễn trong cách
cách dạy dỗ con hằng ngày mà Phụ huynh hằng quan tâm.

Buổi Thảo luận 1: Hiệu quả của cách dạy con tích cực

NGÀY: Thứ Tư 9-5-2012 Từ: 9.30 đến 11.30 giờ Trưa

Buổi Thảo luận 2: Tăng khả năng và tự tin của con em

NGÀY: Thứ Tư 15-5-2012 Từ: 9.30 đến 11.30 giờ Trưa

Buổi Thảo luận 3 & 4: Nuôi dạy trẻ kiên cường

NGÀY: Thứ Tư 23 & 30-5-2012 Từ: 9.30 đến 11.30 giờ

Thuyết trình viên: My Le Nguyen & Kim Hoa Huynh

VENUE: Regents Park Primary School

Cung cấp giữ trẻ. Muốn biết thêm tin tức và ghi danh, xin liên lạc My Le so 9780 2799

Chương trình được bảo trợ bởi: Bộ Dịch Vụ Cộng Đồng – Có sự hợp tác giữa: Trường Regents Park, Trung Tâm Y Tế, và Creating Links của Bankstown

www.triplep.net

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

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