



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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

Issue No. 2

March 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

Most members of our school community would by now be aware that I have been appointed to the position of Principal of Birrong Girls High School. I was first appointed to the school as Deputy Principal in 2002 and to now be appointed as Principal is both a privilege and great honour.

I am a passionate advocate of girls' education and am committed to ensuring that every girl at Birrong Girls High School is empowered as a successful learner, well equipped to meet the challenges of the future and to contribute to society as an active and informed citizen.

As Principal I will continue to build on our strong culture of success, ensuring that our girls are provided with opportunities, both curricular and extra-curricular, to develop as critical and creative thinkers and active learners, inspired and supported by our outstanding, quality teachers and highly efficient school administrative and support staff.

In keeping with our school values and the wishes of Henrietta Wooster, the school's first principal, I will strive to ensure that the story of Birrong Girls High School is a noble one, and provide opportunities for each girl in a safe, supportive and positive learning environment that fosters personal excellence and the achievement of individual goals.

I look forward to working with parents and all members of our school community as we progress towards achieving our collective purpose of educating our girls so that when they leave Birrong, they will be strong, smart and confident young women and lifelong learners, well prepared for the challenges ahead.

Tell Them From Me - Student Survey

Over the next couple of weeks every student in the school will be asked to participate in the online Tell Them From Me survey. Student responses to the survey are completely anonymous and will provide general information about student engagement, wellbeing, aspirations, and effective teaching practices. The results from the survey will inform school planning and in this way ensure that we have the best teaching and learning practices to support our students as active and resilient learners. Please support the school in this initiative by encouraging your daughter to respond to the survey with care and honesty.

Safe driving

Parents please take care to follow the rules of the road when dropping off and picking up your child and ensure the safety of all our students.

The safety of our students is of paramount concern to us all; however, reckless and bad driving at the front of the school continues to put our students at risk.

Remember that the car parks on the school grounds are for teachers only.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the competitors and their enthusiastic supporters at the school's swimming carnival held on Thursday 26 February at the Birrong Leisure Centre. It was a very successful carnival with a large number of enthusiastic competitors and great attendance. Congratulations also to Year 12 who contributed to the carnival atmosphere with their original and engaging costumes and sense of school spirit.



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Special congratulations to the following talented swimmers who will progress to the zone carnival: Mia Greenwood, Selena Wong, Skye Casacchia, Lara Maxwell, Monique Steel, Joanna Hutabarat, Kathleen Logie, Catherine Zhuo, Jasmine Tran, Jazmene Fitcher, Justine Mai, Claudia White, Chelsea Smith, Nadine Johnston Araujo and Isabella Johnston Araujo. Thanks to Peta Mounगतonga, our Sports Captain, who will act as team manager on the day.

Congratulations to:

- Our Prefects and SRC who were great ambassadors for our school at the Zonta International Women's Day breakfast on Friday 6 March.
- The students studying Japanese from Years 9–12 who warmly welcomed our visitors from Chikushi Jogakuen Junior High School in Japan on Monday 9 March and carried out their duties with great dedication.



Mr Colley in an art class with the Japanese visitors

- All those students who are showing leadership in learning by making great use of the Homework Centre in the library on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Thank you to:

- All the parents who made time to meet with the teachers on Tuesday 10 March for **the parent/teacher interviews; our teachers greatly appreciate your interest and involvement.** Taking an active interest in your daughter's education and developing a positive home-school relationship greatly assists your daughter achieve to the best of her ability.

Coming Events:

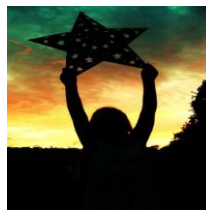
I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next **P&C meeting which will be held on Wednesday 18 March at 5pm in the Common Room.** The first half hour of the meeting will focus on the School Plan 2015-2017.

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment with me (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.

Margaret Fletcher
Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS



Students' success at Birrong Girls High is closely linked to attendance, involvement in the range of experiences that the school offers, as well as home study and revision. It is very pleasing to note that many students have already signed up for a range of extra-curricular activities across the school.

Term 1 so far:

Years 11 and 12 have participated in the **Study Skills** program, which demonstrated to students the valuable tools that will support their preparation for assessments and examinations. Year 12 Half Yearly examinations will commence in Week 9 of this term and Year 11 examinations are due to commence in Term 2, Week 1, so this information is very timely.

Year 11 students have commented on how much work they are doing to begin their journey towards the HSC in 2016. The Year 11 VET (Vocational Education Training) students completed their Work Ready day to prepare themselves for the 70 hours of mandatory work placement that will begin later in the year. The Work Ready day included guest speakers from the community covering a range of topics such as *WH&S* (work, health and safety) and *What your Employer will Expect of You*, advice given by Kristy, a young woman who has worked her way up to the position of manager in a very large recreational facility. The day was successful and Year 11 students reported that they had gained meaningful insights into the world of work.



Work Ready day

The majority of Year 10 students have settled in and are applying the necessary work ethic in classes and at home to help them achieve successful results in their RoSA year. Year 10 students should seek support and assistance from their class teachers or teachers in the Homework Centre if they face difficulties with the work being covered in class. This will ensure that they avoid falling behind in class work, assignments and assessment preparation.

Year 9 girls are enjoying their elective courses and displaying mature application and a serious approach towards their learning. We hope that Year 9 students will begin to take on some of the

leadership roles in the school's extra-curricular clubs and teams. Year 9 students are completing literacy books in roll call to help them strengthen their understanding of grammar and their reading skills before the NAPLAN tests next term.

Year 8 students are consolidating their learning in class. By working diligently in every subject now, they will be able to make wise choices later in the year when it comes time to choose their elective subjects for Years 9 and 10.

Year 7 students have settled in well and have been mentored by selected Year 11 students through the Peer Support program. The Peer Support sessions, organised by Ms Bassam, aim to increase the awareness, support and connectedness Year 7 students have with their new surroundings and to ensure that they understand our expectations of students at Birrong Girls High School.

The Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and will measure factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The NSW wide survey will focus on student wellbeing, engagement, and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for students to provide our school with valuable and effective feedback about their thoughts on school life, how engaged they feel at school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them from Me* survey to help improve school systems and student satisfaction.

The survey information is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will take 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish your daughter to take part in the survey you need to have returned the 'Parent Information Sheet' that was taken home via your daughter during Week 4.

Homework and Revision

All students are expected to complete homework. This includes formal work set by teachers as well as revision and wide reading. The following guidelines indicate the number of hours students in various years should set aside for homework:

- Years 7 and 8 - one hour each night
- Years 9 and 10 - a minimum of two hours each night
- Years 11 and 12 - at least three hours each night.

To every Birrong girl:

- Realise your potential by working to the best of your ability
- Aim to make a difference each day, no matter how small or humble
- Set your sights high
- Reach for the stars - Ad Astra.

Ms Crossan and Mrs George
Deputy Principal and Acting Deputy Principal

Realise your potential,
and settle for nothing less.
It is your road and yours alone.
Others can walk it with you,
but nobody can walk it for you!



**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
WHO YOU ARE AND
WHO YOU WANT TO BE
IS WHAT YOU DO.**



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
on Wednesday 18 March 2015
at 5pm in the Common Room

HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

One of the many jobs of the Head Teacher Administration is to liaise with Department of Education and Communities (DEC) representatives about student attendance.

Every DEC school in NSW is associated with a HSLO (Home School Liaison Officer) who visits the school at least once a week. The HSLO assigned to Birrong Girls High school is Anne McElhatton (pictured). She checks each student's attendance patterns in our school.



Anne's duties include interviewing students whose attendance is falling below the acceptable standards for the DEC. Anne has interviewed a number of our students and she will continue to monitor their attendance and progress. There are a number of students (Years 7 – 12) who will meet Anne over the next few weeks to discuss their poor attendance.

We thank Anne for the support she offers all the students at Birrong Girls High School.

DEC Travel Rules

Family travel should be restricted to school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, an application for extended leave will need to be completed. Absences relating to travel during school terms will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year. This will place your daughter's progress, performance and ability to attain accreditations especially in Years 10, 11 and 12 at risk.

Text Messaging System Changes/Update

A trial of the new text messaging system will occur during Week 8 of this term. We are hoping to identify any problems prior to its implementation at the start of Term 2. The new provider will have multiple text messaging numbers, which will efficiently send out notification to parents regarding student absences. Please update your personal records via the front office so we can ensure all parents/guardians are receiving notifications regarding their daughter's attendance.

New text messages will read: BGHS records show {student first name} {student surname initial} is absent {absence date}. Reply by SMS student name/absence reason/absence date.

Ms Shinas
Relieving Head Teacher Administration

CAREERS NEWS

Year 10

A reminder that our first Work Experience week in May is fast approaching. Every student has been given the required forms and information about this compulsory program. The pink student placement forms are due back at school by the end of the term. If you have any problems finding a suitable workplace, or you have any questions, please come and see me in my office.

Year 11

Last week a small group of Year 11 students attended the Big Day In conference at UTS where they heard presentations from guest speakers from the top technology companies in Australia. The students learnt about the vast field of career opportunities, current trends in information technology and where the future of technology is heading. This day was very beneficial, allowing us to learn about the innovative and wonderful world of technology and where a career in this industry can lead you. The fundamental requirements to succeed in this industry are an interest in technology, creativity and problem solving skills.



Students at the Big Day In conference at UTS

Year 12

Year 12 have hit the ground running with a large amount of students already booked in for one-on-one interviews to start discussing and thinking about their future career paths. If you haven't seen me, please make a booking using the booking sheet on my office door.

Many tertiary institutions will be visiting our school for lunch time presentations. Please listen to the roll call announcements for these important dates. Some of these include Sydney University, UTS, Macleay College, Notre Dame and ACU. A reminder that Careers newsletters are distributed a few times a term with the latest information on careers news and events. Please be sure to read these carefully and store them safely for future reference.

Mrs Wailes
Careers Adviser

SWIMMING CARNIVAL SUCCESS!

Congratulations to all students that competed at the 2015 school swimming carnival held at Birrong Leisure Centre on Thursday 26 February. It was a fantastic day full of Birrong enthusiasm and spirit. The house cheers were the loudest heard yet!

The following students represented their school with pride and were awarded Age Champions for 2015:

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 12 Years | - Mia Greenwood |
| 13 Years | - Skye Casacchia |
| 14 Years | - Joanna Hutabarat |
| 15 Years | - Kathleen Logie |
| 16 Years | - Claudia White |
| 17 Years | - Isabella Johnston Araujo |

The race for house points was very close this year and the difference between first and second was only 4 points.

4th Place: Bundarra on 171 points

3rd Place: Miga on 241 points

2nd Place: Inga on 341 points

First place this year went to Yurong on 345 points! Well done to all those students that participated to the best of their ability on the day and thank you to Miss Sirris for a wonderful job in coordinating and managing both the school swimming carnival and the zone swimming carnival at Birrong Leisure Centre.

Mrs Lord
Head Teacher PDHPE



HOUSE AND VICE CAPTAINS FOR 2015

I would like to congratulate the following students who have been successful in gaining positions as House Captains and Vice Captains for 2015. We look forward to their contribution to sport and school carnivals and know they will take on this leadership role with pride.

Bundarra

House Captain: Helmia Derbas

Vice Captain: Haneen Dhareei

Inga

House Captain: Rereana Edwards

Vice Captain: Nasia Kyriacou

Miga

House Captain: Lua Pahulu

Vice Captain: Feangai Ngatuvai

Yurong

House Captain: Jasmine Tran

Vice Captain: Emily Webb

Mrs Lord

Head Teacher PDHPE

VOLLEYBALL NEWS

Congratulations to the school volleyball team who won their first game of the CHS Knockout competition vs Leumeah High School. They won the match by 3 sets to 0; winning by scores of 25 -15, 25 - 21 and 25 -11. Good luck in the next round!



Volleyball Team

Special congratulations go to Sharon Kaihau-Nimo, Latai Puloka, Efi Puloka, Leane Ellis and Moala Laiafi who were selected to represent the Edmondson Zone Volleyball Team in the South West Sydney Volleyball Tournament. The zone team narrowly missed a place in the quarter finals by two points!

Further congratulations go to Sharon Kaihau-Nimo and Latai Puloka who were selected to represent the South West Sydney Regional Volleyball Squad. They are training with the squad every Tuesday in preparation for the state championships.

Well done girls!

Ms Waltho

Volleyball Coach

YEAR 10 PASS REPORT

On 25 February, Year 10 PASS (Physical Activity and Sports Studies) were invited to supervise and participate in Lidcombe Primary School's swimming carnival at Auburn Swim Centre. Twelve girls were selected and given the opportunity to demonstrate the coaching and leadership skills they have gained throughout the PASS course. As a student taking PASS, I was chosen and had a great experience teaching and mentoring younger students. This, not only was a good challenge, but also a great time to have fun with other classmates. PASS is a great way of developing good communication skills with others and also challenges you to become a better leader.

By: Latai Puloka



Year 10 PASS students

CAPA REPORT

Visual Arts

It has been an exciting start to the year in the Visual Arts faculty. The students have been busy in their creative endeavours and have already produced some amazing, sophisticated art works. As intended, there are opportunities for the students to attend camps and various excursions. This allows the students to have direct experiences with artists and artworks by visiting galleries, attending educator led tours and participating in art making workshops outside of their usual school setting.

Pop to Popism and Art Express at the Art Gallery of NSW

In Week 3, our elective Year 10, 11 and 12 Visual Art students travelled to the city and visited the Art Gallery of NSW. The students attended the Pop to Popism exhibition, where more than 200 works explored the origins of pop art and gave the students the opportunity to see masterpieces by artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Students also had the opportunity to see the Art Express display. This annual exhibition showcases exemplary artworks created by New South Wales visual art students for the Higher School Certificate.



Visual Art excursion at the Art Gallery of NSW

Visual Art Camps

The annual camp for the Year 9 elective Visual Art classes will again be held at the picturesque and tranquil location of Bundanon, on the Shoalhaven River, south of Sydney. This year, the camp will take place during Week 5 of Term 2.

During Week 6 in Term 2, the Year 10 and 11 elective Visual Art students and Year 11 Photo Digital Media students will have the opportunity to attend a 3 day/2 night camp to Cockatoo Island and experience various workshops and view inspiring exhibitions.

Potts Hill Public Art Project

The Year 10 Visual Art students are working on a community art project in collaboration with the Potts Hill Public Art Plan. This is an exciting project which allows the students to have direct involvement in the planning and execution of the art design for an intended site within the new Potts Hill development near our school.

Music

The Ad Astra Rock Band has reformed for 2015 with an exciting new playlist. Upcoming concerts are being planned and are soon to be announced. The auditions for a second rock band will be coming soon, so if you're interested, stay tuned for more information in the Student Daily Notices.

By: CAPA Faculty

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES **There are lots of activities to join at BGHS!**

Year 7 Curriculum Activities

Mathletics
DEAR
QuickSmart

Leadership Opportunities for Year 7

SRC
Battle of the Brains

Clubs, Teams, Groups and Activities include:

Premier's Reading Challenge
Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)
Music, Vocal and Instrumental Groups
The Chess Club
Debating
Public Speaking
The Environmental Team
Amnesty Team
Writers Club
Gifted and Talented Writing Club
Maths Competition
English Competition
Science Competition
History competitions
Creative Arts Extravaganza
Dance Spectacular
Wrap with Love
Visual Arts Camp
Jump Rope for Heart
Drama productions
Australian Business and Community Network Year 10
Leadership mentoring

Sport Activities and Teams include:

Swimming and Athletics carnivals
Field Days with other schools

Knockout Competitions include:

Volleyball
Touch football
Lawn Bowls
Soccer
Softball
Tennis
Netball
Basketball
Table Tennis
Oztag

Additional Activities for Senior Students

Taster Days at university
Media Team
School Magazine Team
Sound Room Team
STELLAR Editors
Numeracy Week Organising Team
Sport House Captains
Student of the Month
Finance Team
Prefects
School Captain, Vice Captain and Sports Captain
UBS Finance Academy
UBS Leadership Academy

**CHIKUSHI JOGAKUEN
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL VISIT
Monday 9 March 2015**



**Approved Footwear
for Birrong Girls High School**



SCHOOL GOBLET RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Sandra Dang (not pictured), Aleya Celik and Fatima Al-Helfy who received their goblets for the 230 small merit certificates which each student has managed to collect since Year 7 (including attendance awards and no late arrival certificates).



PARENT TIPS

Friendships to boost your child's learning

If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning>

Benefits of team sports

If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/fitness/benefits-of-team-sports>

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

March:

Wednesday, 18th

▪ P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

Monday, 23rd to Friday, 27th

▪ Year 12 Exams

Thursday, 26th

▪ Year 7 and Year 8 School Cross Country Carnival, p2 & p3

Monday, 30th and Tuesday, 31st

▪ Year 12 Exams

April:

Wednesday, 1st and Thursday, 2nd

▪ Year 12 Exams

Friday, 3rd

▪ GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday

Enjoy the School Holidays!

April:

Monday, 20th

▪ School Development Day – for staff only

Tuesday, 21st

▪ **All students return to school**

Tuesday, 21st April to Friday, 1st May

▪ Year 11 Half Yearly Exams



THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

- ✓ Relaxing ✓ Fun
- ✓ Great value ✓ Safe

Entertain the kids these school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids' and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip'n'slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids' Day Camps start from \$47. Family Camp weekends start from \$63 per day for kids and \$96 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free; cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

Bonus! Residential Kids' Camps Include supervised transport from:

- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.



dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps
dsr.nsw.gov.au/familycamps
 13 13 02
facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation



Office
of Sport
Sport & Recreation



Trade &
Investment
Resources & Energy



2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate



\$150*
**TOWARDS
ENERGY
BILLS**

Apply before Midnight
16 June 2015

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM

<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to \$150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to \$165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

To be eligible you **MUST**:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

Before you apply, here's a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- **ONLINE** – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

**APPLY
ONLINE
NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate