



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

## The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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

Issue No. 7

October 2016

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

#### Excellent NAPLAN results

In May this year all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia were tested in a series of literacy and numeracy tests. The school's NAPLAN results this year have again been very pleasing.

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

The results for Year 7 indicate that since their test in Year 5 the girls have made good progress, particularly in the area of numeracy; however, further improvement in the area of reading must be a priority over the next 2 years. Teachers will use the NAPLAN data to inform their teaching practice to support those students not yet at national standards in this critical area.

Congratulations to our Year 9 girls on their strong growth in numeracy. The results show that the growth in numeracy since they were tested in Year 7 has far exceeded the average rate across the state. While the results indicate that students have improved literacy skills in reading, grammar and punctuation and spelling, literacy will remain an ongoing focus for improvement.

I remind parents and students of the importance of wide reading. All students should be dedicating at least 30 minutes each evening to reading a novel of their own choice that interests them and challenges their thinking. This is an enjoyable and painless way to develop literacy skills.

Thank you to our talented teachers and supportive parents who have worked with our students to develop critical skills in numeracy and literacy.

### HSC

On Thursday 22 September our Year 12 girls marked the end of their years at Birrong Girls at their Graduation Ceremony. This is a very special occasion on the school calendar; it marks the transformation of the bright eyed Year 7 students of 2011, into confident, independent young women ready to embrace the challenges of the future. It was an affirming and moving experience to acknowledge the achievements of our extraordinary young women as they were presented with their graduation portfolios. Thank you to the families and friends who celebrated this event, a highly significant milestone in the lives of our Year 12 students.



Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

Year 12 students commenced their **HSC examinations** on **Thursday 13 October** with their first English paper and will sit their last examination on **Friday 4 November**. HSC results are published on **Thursday 15 December**. On **Wednesday 23 November**, students will return text books, sign out and collect their school reference. I look forward to celebrating the end of high school with them at their **Formal Evening on Thursday 24 November**.

On behalf of the staff and students of Birrong Girls High School, I wish the 2016 Year 12 girls the best of luck in their HSC examinations, success in their further studies and happy and fulfilling lives.

#### Congratulations go to...

- The newly elected **School Captain** for 2017, Linda Tran, **Vice Captain**, Leyla Elcheikh and **Sports Captain/Prefect**, Anna Qiu and the 2017 **Prefects**: Zenah Allam, Angela Bae, Esraa Chami, Cindy Dang, Natasha Luu, Jenny Nguyen, Tina Tay, Viana Tran and Keisha Valencia. These students have demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities, are the finest role models for the rest of the student body and will be outstanding ambassadors for our school.

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	<i>Page/s</i>
<i>Principal's Report</i>	1-2
<i>Report from the Deputy Principals</i>	2-3
<i>Next P&amp;C Meeting</i>	3
<i>Introducing the New Teachers</i>	4
<i>Welfare Matters</i>	4
<i>Careers News</i>	5
<i>From the CAPA Faculty</i>	5-6
<i>School Calendar</i>	6
<i>School and Child/Youth Opal Cards</i>	7
<i>Chess Club</i>	7
<i>Road Safety Fact Sheet – Illegal U-turn</i>	8

- **Walaa Houssein, Victoria Pahulu and Kim Chau (Year 12)** who received Rotary Vocational Youth Awards for Hospitality, Retail Services and Business Services at Bass High School on Tuesday 13 September.
- **Rachel Hwang (Year 12), Halima Elsayed (Year 9), Alexandra Viles (Year 11) and Sandra Dang (Year 12)** - pictured below - who were finalists in the Bankstown Youth Awards. Sandra Dang was the outright winner in the Creative and Performing Arts category.



**Bankstown Youth Awards**

- **Breanna Davies (Year 8), Nadine Kalaoun (Year 8) and Lara Webb (Year 9)** for their talented performance at the Cross Network Creative and Performing Arts Concert held at Bankstown Sports Club on 15 September.
- **The Year 11 Hospitality** students and their teachers who catered for the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. Their fine skills helped make the day a memorable and happy occasion for our Year 12 students and their parents.



**Mr DaCunha, Ms Petrovska and Year 11 Hospitality students**

### **P&C meeting**

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next P&C meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 30 November at 5pm in the Common Room**. At this meeting we will acknowledge our achievements in 2016 and discuss the new School's Plan for 2015-17. Parents are encouraged to provide their input into the school's planning processes at this meeting.

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

Best wishes.

**Margaret Fletcher  
Principal**

### **REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS**

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

The online 'Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent Survey' was available for all parents and carers from Monday 17 October until Friday 21 October. Many thanks to those people who responded, the parent survey results will help us to strengthen the important relationship between parents and our school.

Our successful parent technology workshops which ran on Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm-4:30pm last term will be followed by a series of taster workshops this term starting in Week 3, 27 October.

- 27 October - cake decorating
- 3 November - yoga
- 10 November - oral history
- 17 November - drawing
- 24 November - percussion
- 1 December - science experiments

Places are limited for these workshops and to ensure we purchase sufficient materials we are asking parents to RSVP through their daughters to our invitation to attend the workshops. The cake decorating workshop will provide an opportunity for parents and carers to work together with their daughters.

We wish all the 2016 Year 12 students the very best as they embark on their HSC examinations. These examinations bring to a close their secondary schooling and prepare them for continued success in future endeavours.

Our Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary Year examinations and they have already begun their preparation for the HSC in 2017. Students have received their reports and should spend some time reflecting on their performance and are encouraged to seek assistance from their teachers to identify how they could achieve improvement. The Year 12 Assessment Booklet has been distributed and students are encouraged to plan their term carefully, taking note of when assessment tasks

are due and ensuring that they are well organised to complete all required work. Students are reminded about adhering to school procedures about assessment tasks and examinations, as explained in the booklet. Certainly, the maintenance of nightly study habits and a clear focus on completing work to develop deep understanding are essential in achieving the best possible future outcomes. It is also important that students achieve a balance between family, study and extracurricular activities. Students should get the right amount of sleep and rest, as this often impacts on the effectiveness of their study routines. If students are experiencing difficulty in maintaining a balance, or need assistance with setting goals, we encourage them to be proactive and seek help from Mr Hobbs, Mr Eveleigh, Ms Salvagio or Ms Tselepi.

Throughout Term 4 Year 10 students are expected to continue working diligently, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure they achieve all course outcomes. Students should also be preparing for their Year 10 formal exams which will be held during Week 6. All Year 10 students have now chosen their preliminary HSC subjects for Year 11. Some students will need to reflect on their selections and consider if their choices are best suited to their capabilities and future career aspirations. It is important that students listen to advice and make decisions which will allow them to achieve to the best of their ability. For some students, the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be a more appealing and appropriate pathway. Parents of Year 10 students considering an alternate pathway are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success post Year 10 with Ms Shinas, the school's Transition Teacher or Ms Wailes, the Careers Adviser.

Year 9 students received their NAPLAN results in late August. These results will allow parents to reflect on some areas of their daughter's progress in literacy and numeracy. It is important that students continue to work consistently by completing the work set by their teachers to ensure that their skills continue to develop. Midterm, Year 9 students will be attending the Luna Park Mathematics excursion focusing on maths problem solving in a real life context.

Year 8 students are eagerly looking forward to their language excursions to the Japanese Foundation and Norton Street, Leichhardt in Weeks 3 and 4. The students will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the food, culture and language of the countries they have been learning about this year. We are confident they will represent Birrong Girls High School in a positive way.

Year 7 received their NAPLAN results in late August. To improve, it is vital that parents foster an environment which encourages regular reading which will assist students to improve their comprehension as well as vocabulary. All students who attended the Visual Arts excursion to The Royal Botanic Gardens reported they had a great day packed with exciting activities. The Year 7 Field Day is fast approaching and all students are getting ready to participate in their first inter school sports gala day that fosters teamwork and sportsmanship.

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

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

Ad Astra! Aim for your very best this term!

Ms George and Ms Cross  
**Deputy Principals**



**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Parents are invited to attend the  
**P & C MEETING**  
**on Wednesday 30 November 2016**  
at 5pm in the Common Room

## INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS

### Stephanie Lyons English



My name is Stephanie Lyons and I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Birrong Girls High School. I have been teaching since 1994 and have spent the past 20 years teaching English and Drama at Liverpool Girls High School. I am currently on leave from my school as I wanted to

experience what it was like to teach in different environments. Earlier this year I spent some time working at Strathfield Girls High and Bankstown Girls High and I have been at Birrong Girls since last term.

My favourite aspect of teaching is working cooperatively and collaboratively in the classroom and establishing a learning space where students feel valued. I have been very impressed with the commitment to teaching and learning from both staff and students across the school.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, going to the theatre, and (when I can afford it!) travelling – in Australia and overseas. I would like to thank everyone at Birrong Girls who have made me feel very welcome.

### Anthony Sharman Learning and Support



My name is Anthony Sharman and I am replacing Rebecca Lee in Learning and Support whilst she is on leave. I'd like to thank the staff for their warm welcome and cooperation through this transition.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in History and English from The University of Sydney and a Graduate Diploma of Education from Macquarie University. I have been teaching a variety of subjects over the course of my eight years' teaching experience, but senior and junior English and History (Modern and Ancient) are my Key Learning Areas.

It has been a pleasure to join the Learning and Support team at Birrong Girls High School. I am greatly impressed by the quality of the teaching staff and the positive engagement and pleasant demeanour of the students.

I look forward to making a meaningful contribution to the school community throughout Term 4.

## WELFARE MATTERS

### Vaccinations

The vaccination program for Year 7 was completed on Thursday 20 October. Students who have been absent on any of the vaccination days this year will be able to have their vaccination catch up in Term 1 2017.

### Student of the Month Award



Congratulations to Leyla Elcheikh of Year 11 who was awarded the Student of the Month Award for August 2016. She has demonstrated motivation, diligence and a positive attitude to her learning, together with strong

citizenship and commitment to the school and local communities.

Leyla has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement as a member of the SRC over the past three years. In this capacity she has represented the school at various SRC Regional Meetings and at events, such as the International Women's Day Breakfast. Leyla has demonstrated a strong willingness to support her peers and was a supportive and encouraging Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students. She is also a keen sportsperson having achieved the Age Champion in Athletics for four years.

As a community minded young person, Leyla has undertaken volunteer work for the Berala Bears Football Club and at the local primary school assisting during the elections.

### Responsible Citizenship Presentation

Senior Constable Danny McMannus, School Liaison Police, will be presenting to all our Year 7 students on Monday 24 October. His presentation will include crime prevention awareness, understanding the Young Offenders Act and cyber smart matters.

### Mental Health Awareness

October is Mental Health Month and the theme this year is "Learn and Grow". There are many websites that can provide wellbeing resources and contacts for support. The Way Ahead site promotes Mental Health Month providing information and details about events. The website is <http://mentalhealthmonth.wayahead.org.au/>

At times of difficulty there is 24/7 COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT available. The numbers below are either free or the cost of a local call.

Lifeline - 13 11 14

Kids Help Line - 1800 55 1800

MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978

Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467

Domestic Violence line – 1800 656 463

Ms Salvagio

**Head Teacher Female Students**



## CAREERS NEWS

### Year 10 Work Experience

The second and final week of Work Experience for Year 10 students is fast approaching in Week 8, Monday 28 November to Friday 2 December. There are a large number of students who still haven't organised a workplace or completed their paperwork. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss this vital program with their daughters and support them in their organisation. Student forms are now overdue, please return them to Ms Wailes as soon as possible. Parents and carers, if you have any questions about this program, please phone the school.

### i2i

Through our school's wonderful partnership with ABCN, 20 Year 10 students were selected to attend i2i at Optus Macquarie Park. The i2i program (interview to impress), was a one day workshop that saw students learning, practising and successfully completing interview skills techniques. 16 Optus staff volunteered their time to support and work with our students to help assist them with gaining confidence and communication skills. The students participated in drama based practical activities that focused on the voice, body language and posture, communication, eye contact and overcoming nerves. It was truly amazing to see the transformation of our students from the start of the day to the end of the day. The increased confidence, eye contact and social interaction was fantastic and all students successfully completed a mock interview at the end. Feedback from both students and the Optus mentors was 100% positive and the students should be extremely proud of themselves for their effort and participation. We hope to make this program an annual event on the Careers calendar.

Ms Wailes

**Careers Adviser**



i2i Program

## FROM THE CAPA FACULTY

### VISUAL ARTS REPORT

#### 'Advancing Creative Minds'

Year 5 students from surrounding primary schools were invited to attend 'Advancing Creative Minds' hosted by Visual Art and Music in Week 5 last term. A group of 30 students were selected to participate in activities in response to specific creative programs, whilst under the guidance and supervision of Ms Winchcombe and Mr Eveleigh. It was a fantastic day and the students were given opportunities to undertake extensive creative activities in a high school setting. All students left feeling inspired and excited knowing that their art works were to be displayed in our CAPA Extravaganza that took place in Week 6 last term.



Cubist inspired paintings created by Year 5 students

#### 'Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera' Exhibition and 'Archibald, Wynne, Sulman' Exhibition

In Week 9 of Term 3, our elective Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Visual Art students travelled to the city to see the 'Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera' exhibition and also the 'Archibald, Wynne and Sulman' exhibition. These exhibitions were both on at the Art Gallery of NSW and provided a full day of viewing awe inspiring works, some of which had been studied in class and used as inspiration in independent art making tasks.

We commenced our day in the 'Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera' exhibition. This provided a rare opportunity to see a collection of photographs, paintings and drawings created by these two amazing Mexican artists. The art works provided an insight into the artists' worlds and their intriguing relationship.

Following a lovely lunch in the shade of the trees opposite the art gallery, we resumed our art trail and entered the 'Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes 2016' exhibition. The Archibald Prize, first awarded in 1921, is Australia's most prestigious art award for the best portrait painting. The Wynne Prize is awarded to the best landscape painting of Australian scenery, or figure sculpture, while the Sulman Prize is given to the best subject painting, genre painting or mural project.



Year 12 VA student, Kealie, in front of the Wynne Prize winner 'Seven Sisters' by Ken Family Collaborative



Year 12 VA students, Walaa, Kealie and Ayesha in front of 'Diego on my Mind' by Frida Kahlo

### Royal Botanic Gardens Excursion



This term started with Year 7 taking part in an excursion to the gorgeous Royal Botanic Gardens. After being postponed last term due to poor weather, we were lucky enough to be graced with a beautiful sunny, spring day. The students were given art trail tasks that involved locating and

drawing notable plants, sculptures and historical pieces within the gardens. A great day was had by all and some wonderful small scale drawings were created.

### Work in Progress

This term, our Year 10 Visual Art classes are lucky enough to be working with Selma Fida, a practicing artist who has worked extensively in the field of ceramics on numerous public art projects. She will be guiding and assisting the Year 10

students through the process of developing large ceramic totem poles that will be displayed in Tumbalong later this term. Keep an eye out for further developments with this project.

### Year 12 Visual Arts

Best of luck in your HSC!

### MUSIC REPORT

The Music department is pleased to announce that ukulele fever is coming to Birrong Girls High School! A full class set of ukuleles will be arriving in the coming weeks. Students in the junior years will be able to play music in true Hawaiian style through learning the ukulele.

The ukulele is an easy instrument to learn quickly as it only has four strings and is much smaller than the larger sized guitar. There are so many songs that can be played on the ukulele and students will be learning "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz and "Riptide" by Vance Joy.



By: CAPA Faculty

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

#### October:

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 7 Field Day

#### November:

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 10 Formal Exams

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Crossroads Program

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

▪ Year 12 Sign-out,  
8:30am – 10:30am

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 7 Swim School  
▪ Year 12 Formal

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 7 Swim School

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November  
to Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

▪ Year 10 Work  
Experience

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

▪ P&C Meeting, Common  
Room, 5pm

## SCHOOL AND CHILD/YOUTH OPAL CARDS



### ➤ What is a School or Child/Youth Opal Card?

The **School Opal card** is a free travel or discounted travel Opal card to help eligible students to get to and from school. It is only valid for approved travel on school days between your home and school with restricted hours, on the mode(s) specified in the original application.

For travel outside of school, for personal travel or if ineligible for a School Opal card, students should use a **Child/Youth Opal card**, a concession fare Opal card for customers aged 4-15 (inclusive), or customers 16 years or older who hold a NSW/ACT Senior Secondary School Concession Card. The card must have **sufficient balance** on it for the intended travel.

### ➤ Tap on and off, every time to validate your trip

**At the start of each trip, tap on** by placing your Opal card on an Opal card reader located at the entrance of the bus.

**At the end of the trip, tap off** by placing your Opal card on an Opal card reader again.

Opal card holders **must always tap on and off for each trip and each transport mode** used during their journey.

**If an error message displays when tapping on or off**, students must take notes of the error code and contact Opal Customer Care for assistance.

### ➤ No tap on and off, no bus services

Although some might have a free pass, **all students must tap on and tap off**, so we understand customer travel patterns and can adjust the services provided if necessary.

**If students don't tap on and off, services may be withdrawn** due to the lack of recorded

patronage, or redirected to other schools where the demand is higher.

Any lost, stolen, faulty or damaged Opal card must be **reported online immediately**.

While waiting for a replacement card, students must use a Child/Youth Opal card to travel.

### ➤ Your Opal Customer Care useful contacts

Call **13 67 25 (13 OPAL)** or visit **[opal.com.au](http://opal.com.au)** (24 hours, 7 days):

- Access Opal School or Opal Child/Youth eligibility criteria,
- Apply for an Opal card,
- Register a Child/Youth Opal card, view balance or top-up credit,
- Report an Opal card error message when tapping on/off,
- Update a student profile if details have changed (e.g.: school, home address),
- Report a lost/stolen, faulty or damaged Opal card,
- Order a replacement Opal card.

Alternative contacts:

- **National Relay Service (NRS) 133 677** – for deaf, hearing or speech impaired customers,
- **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 131 450** – for non-English Speaker.

## CHESS CLUB

Birrong's Chess Club continues this term during lunch in the library with Mr Dimassi on Tuesdays (Week A) and Mr Sarna on Tuesdays (Week B).

Chess teaches thinking strategies like no other game and is well worth a try.

All are welcome to come along for a social play or to hone their skills ready for future competitions.







# ILLEGAL U TURN

## ROAD SAFETY FACT SHEET

**Note:** fines subject to change without notice. Current to 30 June 2016.



Fine	Road Rule 132 (2A)
<p><b>\$319</b> and <b>3</b> demerit points</p>	<p><b>A driver on a road:</b></p> <p><b>with a single continuous dividing line,</b></p> <p><b>a single dividing line to the left of a broken dividing line or</b></p> <p><b>two parallel continuous dividing lines</b></p> <p><b>Must not drive across the dividing lines to perform a U-turn.</b></p> <div data-bbox="1157 974 1292 1713"> </div>

For more information contact the Bankstown City Council on 9707 9999.