



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

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

Issue No. 8

November 2016

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

2016 has been another very rewarding year at Birrongo Girls High School. Our achievements, strong learning culture and talented teaching staff were acknowledged in an external validation conducted during November. All public schools in NSW are required to undergo an external validation every five years. The external validation was led by two school principals who measured the school's progress against a school excellence framework. We are delighted with the findings of the validation which indicate that our school is performing at a very high standard, excelling in most of the elements of teaching and learning and sustaining and growing in the domain of leading.

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

I encourage all parents to read their daughter's report carefully, discuss teachers' comments with their daughter and acknowledge and praise excellent achievement and offer encouragement for improvement.

Congratulations to **Ms Trish Winchcombe** who was recognised for her outstanding leadership in the creative and performing arts, as well as her commitment to school improvement and initiatives fostering community partnerships at the Principals' Celebration event on 27 October.

We will meet our Year 7 students for 2017 at their **Orientation Day on Tuesday 6 December**. Demand for enrolments has been extraordinarily high; as a result, enrolments for Year 7 for 2017 are now closed. Many families in the local community have heard about the high quality teaching and learning that happens at Birrongo and want their daughters to be a part of our success. **Maggie Hamilton**, a leading authority on the challenges experienced by girls in today's world, will present a workshop on Orientation Day. Maggie will provide parents with an insight into the teenage world as well as discuss ideas to support our new Year 7 parents in coping with the adolescent years.

**On Wednesday 14 December** the school community will celebrate the outstanding academic, sporting and extra-curricular achievements of the girls at our **Presentation Day at the Bankstown Sports Club from 12:00pm**. Parents and friends are warmly invited to participate in this important recognition ceremony.

The Year 12 class of 2016 applied themselves to their studies with diligence and sustained effort and deserve to do well. I look forward to receiving notification of their **HSC results on Thursday 15 December**. Many will achieve very high Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR) and pursue further study at university or TAFE, while others will enter the workforce. Regardless of their results and ATAR scores, the values of personal excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, integrity, understanding, tolerance and inclusion, integral to this school and public education, will serve them well. They leave this school well prepared for life-long learning with skills and knowledge to take their place as active, productive and responsible citizens in our society. They can be proud to have been students of Birrongo Girls High School.

**CLASS OF  
2016**

<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>Welfare Matters</i>	3
<i>QuickSmart Excursion</i>	3
<i>Wheelsports NSW Roadshow Incursion</i>	4
<i>CAPA Report</i>	4-5
<i>Cupcake Decorating Taster Course</i>	5
<i>Year 10 Food Technology Excursion</i>	5
<i>Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement</i>	6
<i>Drink to your health, with water!</i>	6
<i>Next P&amp;C Meeting</i>	7
<i>School Travel Update</i>	7
<i>Go4Fun Program</i>	7
<i>School Calendar</i>	7
<i>School Security Unit Hotline</i>	8

## Congratulations to...

- Alexandra Viles (Year 11) who is the recipient of the Jason Clare Award for Community Service. Alexandra will accept her award at the Community Service Awards evening on 8 December at Bankstown Sports Club.
- Anna Qiu (Year 11) who received the Auburn Review School Citizenship Award at a ceremony on 16 November.
- Vyvy Nham (Year 11) who received the Victor Chang School Science Award at the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre on Tuesday 1 November.



Anna Qiu

## Thank you to...

- all the teachers and the administration staff who have worked so hard and selflessly throughout 2016 to make Birrong Girls such an exciting, interesting, dynamic and successful school. Their efforts are appreciated and celebrated by our girls in classrooms every day.
- the Deputy Principals, Ms George and Ms Cross, and all our Head Teachers who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Their leadership, cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.
- the small and dedicated band of parents who contribute their time and energy to the school's P&C.

## P&C meeting

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the final P&C meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 30 November at 5pm in the Common Room**. We will be discussing the **school's targets and plans for 2017** so come along and have your say.

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

Best wishes,  
Margaret Fletcher  
**Principal**

## ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY

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

Annual Presentation Day on  
**Wednesday 14 December 2016**

Please arrive 11:45am for 12:00pm start  
The venue for the function will be  
**Bankstown Sports Club Theatre  
8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown**

## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

What a wonderful 2016 we have had at Birrong Girls High School.

The school's commitment to ensuring every student experiences quality teaching was strengthened again recently when teachers from across all of the learning areas participated in workshops facilitated by Drew Miller from Newcastle University. This partnership is an important aspect of our professional learning for teachers that improves the quality of lessons our students experience.

In addition to this, during the year, students of Birrong Girls High School have been honoured and rewarded for their continued application to their learning. Recently, Anna Qiu of Year 11 was commended for her commitment and responsibility across all areas of school life at the Auburn Review School Citizenship Awards evening. The Victor Chang School Science Awards acknowledge the highest achievement in scientific studies throughout the school year. Congratulations to Vyvy Nham of Year 11 who was the 2016 recipient of this award.

We welcome all parents to celebrate student achievements by attending the School Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club on Wednesday 14 December, a time to acknowledge the great achievements of our girls.

In this final term of the year, our Year 7 students enjoyed a field day, swim school and an excursion to Jenolan Caves. These events provided students with time to develop skills, teamwork and leadership qualities in the context of fun activities.

Year 8 students had an opportunity to experience Japanese and Italian food and culture, and also enjoyed their excursion to Penrith Lakes.

Year 9 students demonstrated their leadership skills at the Year 4/5 Enrichment Day on Thursday 17 November when they supported 60 Year 4 and 5 students as they participated in a typical day at high school.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students who have had excellent attendance throughout the year will be invited to participate in the Attendance Rewards Activity Day at Teen Ranch on 13 December. Congratulations, excellent attendance has a positive impact on the achievement of educational outcomes. Enjoy the day!

Term 4 is typically a busy one for Year 10 students. They will undertake their second work experience block in Week 8 gaining valuable workplace experiences. Thanks to Ms Wailes and the Year 10 teachers who will visit and mentor students while they are out in the real world of

work. Year 10 students will also complete "All My Own Work", a mandatory Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards requirement for all students entering Year 11 and then finish the year with leadership training through their participation in the Peer Support Program.

Our Year 11 students completed their preliminary course examinations and have begun their HSC courses. They participated in the compulsory Crossroads program, a day that provides students with a greater understanding of the consequences of personal choices in various life situations.

Year 12 officially signed out of school on 23 November and attended their formal on 24 November, a night that celebrated the end of this chapter in their lives. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

The last day of the year for all students is Friday 16 December. All students are expected to be at school on time every day in full school uniform up until that day.

We hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer vacation.

Ms Cross and Ms George  
**Deputy Principals**

### WELFARE MATTERS



Congratulations to both Linda Tran and Anna Qiu (pictured above) of Year 11 for being nominated for the Student of the Month Award for September and October.

Both students are outstanding role models for their peers, demonstrating a strong commitment to the school community through their participation in various extra-curricular events and programs such as the Peer Tutor Reading and the Peer Support programs. They strive for personal excellence with determination and perseverance so as to attain success in the projects they undertake.

Linda's leadership and positive attitude serve her well as the new School Captain. Anna's sporting and musical talents have been recognised through being elected as the School Sports Captain and being recently awarded the Auburn Review School Citizenship Award.

### Year 4/5 Enrichment Day

On Thursday 17 November we held our annual Year 4/5 Enrichment Day where students from Auburn West Public, Bankstown North Public, Bass Hill Public, Berala Public, Birrong Public, Lidcombe Public and Yagoona Public spent an active day in our school participating in various lessons and performances.



The school's Welfare Team members would like to thank all the parents and guardians for their assistance, support and encouragement of our students throughout the year. We wish all the students and their families a wonderful school vacation and look forward to a successful 2017.

Ms Salvagio  
**Head Teacher Female Students**

### QUICKSMART EXCURSION

On 18 November, nine Year 7 girls, six Year 8 girls, Ms Bahnam and Ms Hmeidouch from QuickSmart went to Westfield Burwood shopping centre as a reward for their good work throughout the year. We went by train to Westfield and then walked to Burwood shopping centre. We all had fun, we went to some really great stores. At 12:00pm we had a delicious lunch at the food court and then we went back to shopping. Unfortunately, the fun didn't last and we had to start going back to school at 1:30pm. We bought some ice cream and by 2:30pm we arrived at school. We all had a good time. We loved hanging out with our friends all day. Throughout the day we had to complete a booklet. We had so much fun we almost forgot that we were on an excursion. It was one of the best excursions of the year.



By: Makbule and Alicia, 7C

## WHEELSPORTS NSW ROADSHOW INCURSION – YEAR 10 PASS



On 27 October Year 10 PASS attended an incursion that related to our Physical Activity and Sports Studies for Specific Groups unit. This incursion focused on sport for the disabled. We had two guests named Reece and Hannah who taught us the rules about wheelchair basketball. They also told us of their struggle to overcome the restrictions of their disability in order to play sport. Reece and Hannah sustained their disability differently. While Hannah was born with her disability, Reece's disability was self-inflicted due to a road accident. He talked about the dangers of speeding, the risks of driving recklessly and how the outcome can dramatically change your life. He reminded us that we are not immortal and that for every impulsive decision there are severe consequences.

We all had an opportunity to experience playing wheelchair basketball and found it a very enjoyable, yet challenging sport. This allowed us to empathise with the people that are disabled, whilst also learning about the modifications made to suit the needs of this specific group. Not only was this incursion a great opportunity for practical learning, but as each guest spoke, we all listened attentively and were all inspired by both Reece and Hannah's braveness, resilience and ability to accept the struggles of life. This allowed all of our peers to feel a sense of empathy and empower us to face life with an open mind. We realised that life has unexpected turns which can be overcome with the right attitude. We all left that day with a positive mindset and a new outlook towards our blessed lives.

**By: Eman and Rawan, Year 10 PASS**

## CAPA REPORT

### Music

With HSC performances and exams now over, we have turned our focus to planning for next year. Last week saw the arrival of a new class set of ukuleles in the Music faculty. Stage 4 students (Year 7 and 8) will have the opportunity to participate in ukulele rehearsals during class. Ukuleles are very popular and fun to learn to play as a group. We will be learning about chords, strumming techniques and how to pick a melody! The "ukes" are especially suited to accompanying ourselves when we sing. You only need to learn 3 chords to play a huge range of songs! Listen out for our ukulele sounds wafting through the corridors and Tumbalong in 2017.



Music students with the newly acquired ukuleles

### Visual Arts

This has been yet another busy term for the Visual Arts department.

Year 7 students were treated to a day in the magnificent Botanic Gardens. This venue was chosen as a source of artistic inspiration because of the magnificent scenery and also because the Botanic Gardens is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The students explored the gardens and gathered images in the form of drawings and photographs to be used in their printmaking unit of work. The day was a success and everybody soaked up the atmosphere and amazing scenery.

It is essential for elective Visual Arts students to gain exposure to a wide variety of artworks, artists, exhibitions and galleries in order to enhance their understanding of the complexities of the art world. This term, Year 11 Visual Arts students have visited the White Rabbit Gallery in Chippendale to view the *Vile Bodies* exhibition. The White Rabbit Gallery is an art museum, which exhibits 21<sup>st</sup> century Chinese contemporary art. They will also be visiting the Museum of Contemporary Art at Circular Quay to experience the work of Tatsuo Miyaiima who is one of Japan's most renowned contemporary artists, known for his sculptures and room-scale installations incorporating light and numbers. *Connect With Everything* is Miyaiima's first

exhibition in the Southern Hemisphere. It encompasses his sculptural works, rooms and environments, and performance videos.

The Year 10 elective art students were involved in a community art project with Selma Fida, a ceramic artist who works from a studio at The Clayhouse at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. Selma visited the school during art lessons and the students collaborated with Selma to create a series of six ceramic totem poles based on the theme of future dreams and goals. The completed work has been installed (thanks to Mr Sinden) and looks great nestled amongst the azaleas and bromeliads under the shade of Jenny's Tree in Tumbalong.

**By: CAPA Faculty**

### CUPCAKE DECORATING TASTER COURSE

On Thursday 27 October the TAS Faculty held a mother/daughter cupcake decorating class at Birrong Girls High School. The participants learnt basic cupcake piping techniques, including how to use specific piping nozzles to create different patterns and designs. The participants also learnt how to roll and colour fondant using gel food colouring, as well as how to use various silicon moulds to make beautiful cupcake decorations.

The participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced some fantastic and very creative cupcakes. Below are some images of the beautifully decorated cupcakes and the wonderful individuals who participated in the course.

**By: TAS Faculty**



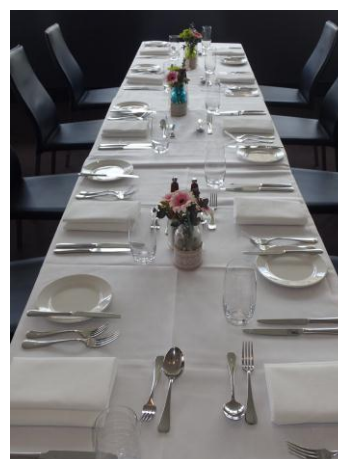
### YEAR 10 FOOD TECHNOLOGY EXCURSION TO SYDNEY ULTIMO TAFE

On Thursday 20 October, Ms Ratnayake and Ms Petrovska along with the Year 10 Food Technology students had an excursion to the Sydney Ultimo TAFE Restaurant. The Year 10 students received an amazing opportunity as they had a tour of the different areas of the Hospitality industry. This included the kitchen (backhouse, front house) where professional chefs were cooking, a room where students of the TAFE were learning how to make beverages and they also visited a hotel room which allowed the students to see how to set up a room appropriately. The students also visited the pastry kitchen where TAFE students were preparing remarkable desserts.

After the astounding tour of the Hospitality industry, the Year 10 students encountered a delightful 3 course meal. The three course meal consisted of an entrée, main meal and desserts. The Food Technology students received great service from the restaurant and the food served was delicious and enjoyable.

Overall, Year 10 students had an exciting and fascinating day. This excursion allowed them to increase their knowledge about the Hospitality industry and to observe life in the catering and service industry.

**By: Khatera and Suyoung, Year 10 Food Tech.**



## YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY WORK PLACEMENT



### The Star

During Week 5 of Term 4, Year 12 Hospitality students set out on work placement at various cafés, restaurants, etc. allowing us to practice and develop our skills in the field of Hospitality. We were given the opportunity to attend our one week work placement at The Star.

The work placement allowed us to observe and assist in the preparation and serving of both savoury and sweet dishes as we rotated through various kitchens throughout the week, which all offered different palates of food. We had firsthand experience of the pastry kitchen, commissary and the Harvest Buffet. This rotation meant that we had the chance to work alongside many experienced chefs, allowing us to learn new skills, gain new experiences and broaden our knowledge.

Overall, The Star provided us with amazing memories as we were stretched out of our comfort zones which proved to be beneficial to us as Hospitality students. A big thank you to Bernice Colcomb from The Star for giving us this opportunity.

**By: Cindy, Leyla, Keisha and Caroline, Year 12 Hospitality**

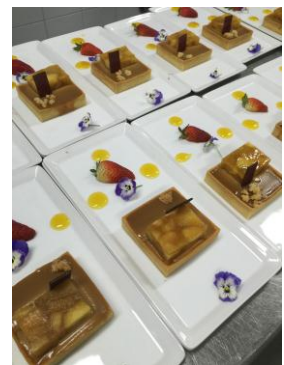


### Bankstown Sports Club

For our Hospitality HSC work placement we attended Bankstown Sports Club. It was a worthwhile experience and we gained a lot of knowledge and valuable skills. We spent our week plating for functions and preparing meals.



Through this experience we've learnt to appreciate the work that our parents do for us and we definitely won't complain the next time we are asked to help out in the kitchen. From the welcoming and friendly staff to the free food, we would definitely recommend Bankstown Sports Club as a work placement venue.



**By: Armanii and Layla**

### DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH, WITH WATER!

Water is the best drink for your child!

Energy drinks are a stimulant that contain caffeine that is not needed for a healthy adolescent girl.

Please take the healthy option and bring a water bottle to school and leave the energy drinks at the shops.





## 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



Parents are reminded that the last day of the 2016 school year for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students at Birrongo Girls High School will be **Friday 16 December**. School development days will be held on Monday 19 December and Tuesday 20 December.

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

## SCHOOL TRAVEL UPDATE



### School Opal cards for 2017 travel

All students must keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2017. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1. Current School Opal cards can be updated with changes of school, home address or operator by visiting [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students).

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

### November:

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

- Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

- P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

### December:

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> to  
Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Year 10 Work Experience

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>

- Year 6 Orientation Day, 9:15am – 12:30pm

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> and  
Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>

- Year 10 Peer Support Training

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>

- Attendance Rewards Activity Day at Teen Ranch

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>

- Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club, 12:00pm – 2pm

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>

- Last day of the school year for students

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day for staff

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day for staff

## TERM 1 2017



### FREE fun program to help kids become fitter, healthier and happier!

**Do you have children 7-13 years old?  
Are you worried about their weight?**

The Go4Fun program is a free healthy lifestyle program to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children above a healthy weight.

Go4Fun runs for 10 weeks over the school term for children and their parents. Sessions include games, activities, tips on healthy food, label reading, portion sizes plus much more!

To find out more and register visit [www.go4fun.com.au](http://www.go4fun.com.au) or contact **1800 780 900** or Claire Southwood-Jones Tel: **(02) 97802811**.



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



### January 2017:

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

- School Holidays

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup>

- School Holidays

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup>

- School Holidays

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup>

- Australia Day Public Holiday

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day - staff only return to school

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup>**

- **Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school**

**Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup>**

- **All other year groups return to school**

# **SCHOOL SECURITY UNIT HOTLINE**

## **1300 880 021**

**The community can help protect schools over the summer holidays by reporting incidents of:**

- **Trespassing**
- **Break and enter**
- **Malicious damage**
- **Graffiti vandalism**
- **Arson**

