



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Development Day

At our Term 3 **School Development Day** on Monday 18 July our teachers participated in a series of presentations and workshops on numeracy and behaviour profiling. These highly successful activities, led by experienced teachers from the school and industry experts, provided a great professional opportunity for teachers to work collegially for enhanced teaching practice and collaborative processes.

School Improvements

Our school has been identified by the Department of Education to be part of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program. The purpose of the project is to improve how high schools present to their local community by improving the physical environment and aesthetics of the school, particularly with a focus on the front of school. We are anticipating that concept designs will be presented to the school before the end of term with work commencing later in the year. Mrs Araujo, Treasurer of the P&C, will represent the parent body.

Subject Selection for HSC 2018

Year 10 are currently making important decisions regarding subjects and courses for Year 11 2017. The girls have been assisted in this task through the information provided by the very successful Subject Market presented by Head Teachers and expert staff on Wednesday 20 July. At this market students were reminded that they should *make their subject choices based on their interests and abilities*. Selecting a subject because friends have chosen it, or family members believe it will lead to a high ATAR or even because a particular teacher is teaching it this year, are all foolish reasons on which to base a choice. The best predictors of HSC success are subject choices based on individual ability, interest and school attendance.



Year 10 students learning about their subject choices

The market was complemented by an informative session for students and their parents presented by Ms George on the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards requirements for the HSC on Thursday 21 July. Armed with all of this information and advice from our Careers Adviser, Ms Wailes, the girls will make appropriate decisions about subjects for Year 11 and 12 to enhance pathways into tertiary education and TAFE or the workforce.

Year 12

Year 12 students are now finalising major projects and preparing for their **Trial HSC examinations** which will commence in Week 5. Excellent attendance, motivation, self-discipline and hard work are essential to success in the HSC and, indeed, life. Students should also seek out their teachers who have the knowledge and expertise to assist them in maximising their success.

Tell Them From Me Survey

The Parent *Tell Them From Me* survey will go live early in Term 4. Parents who are not able to access the survey at home will be given a number of opportunities to complete it at Birrong Girls. The survey is completely anonymous. Our school values the informed views and opinions of our parents highly and all parents are encouraged to complete this survey. Data from the survey will be used to determine future directions and support whole school improvement. We will provide further information when it is available.

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Congratulations to:

- all the talented dancers and their keen supporters who made the **PDHPE display on Thursday 30 June** a tremendous success. A very enthusiastic audience of Year 4 & 5 girls from our local primary schools applauded our students for their inspiring and creative performances. Great talent and dedication from students and their PDHPE teachers made this a very spectacular show.
- Faiza Batool and Sajida Muhammadi of Year 10 who have been selected to perform in the Drama Festival Ultimo Public Schools at the NIDA Parade Theatre on Wednesday 10 August. This is indeed a great honour and testament to the students' talent and dedication.



PDHPE Display

Thank you to:

- the parents who took the opportunity to discuss their daughter's Semester 1 reports with the teachers at the **Parent-Teacher meeting** on Tuesday 28 June. The feedback received from the online survey completed by parents on the evening was very positive. Parents indicated they believe very strongly that:
 - the school provides helpful information about their daughters' progress
 - the teachers are caring and provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment
 - the school takes their concerns seriously
 - the school is always looking for ways to improve what it does.

The parent survey also endorsed the homework centre as a valuable resource supporting their daughters' learning. Two trained teachers supervise the homework centre Monday to Thursday from 2:50–4:50pm each week, assisting students with their homework and supporting them in developing an improved understanding of work covered in class. I urge all parents to encourage their daughters to access this valuable resource.

Should you have any issues you wish to discuss about your daughter's education please feel free to make an appointment with me. Please enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Margaret Fletcher
Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome to Term 3, one of the busiest terms for all students across the school.

Year 12 students are working exceptionally hard as they near their trial HSC examinations which commence in Week 5. This is the last term of course work for the students before they embrace their HSC examinations. All students will need to work hard and knuckle down into strong study habits to assist their examination preparation.

Year 11 students will be involved in the nomination and selection of the 2016–2017 Prefect body. This process is about selecting students who represent the ideal 'Birrong Girl' in all areas of life. Prefects who are selected are role models and ambassadors for our school community and the process is taken very seriously. Year 11 students also face their final Preliminary examinations starting in Week 7. Year 11 students need to ensure that they work hard to achieve their best.

Year 10 students started the term with their Subject Selection Market where they were introduced to information about the range of courses they could select for their Year 11 Preliminary HSC course of study in 2017. Students gained valuable insights into the rigour required for all Preliminary courses before having to make their ultimate selections. A subject selection information afternoon for Year 10 students and interested parents focused on the Year 10 subject selection process in regard to appropriate course selections, Preliminary and HSC requirements and ATAR information to assist in the overall selection of 2017 courses.

If students or parents have any concerns about subject selections please contact the school and speak to the relevant Year Adviser, Head Teacher or Deputy Principal.

Year 8 students will be preparing for the selection of their Year 9 2017 subjects over the next few weeks. All Year 8 students will be issued with a course booklet outlining individual course information before they have to narrow their selections down to the two most appropriate courses for them to study. Mid-way through the term Year 8 will also be involved in the Jump Rope for Heart skipping fundraiser.

Good luck to all the girls who will be representing the school and the Zone at the Regional Athletics carnival.

Following up from the end of last term:

- The PDHPE Display capped off a very productive Dance unit for all students in Years 7–10. The dancers selected to perform in the display put on a grand show for all the local feeder primary schools in Years 4 and 5 and then performed the show again in the afternoon for our own school community. A great day was had by all who attended and by those who were in the production.



Year 9 students performing at the Dance Display

Ms George and Mr Ali
Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

The UAC Guides have arrived at school and every student in Year 12 will receive a copy. Ms Wailes is running a UAC information session on Tuesday 2 August in Room 16/17 at 12:55pm. Students will learn about the application process, how to rank courses, important dates and much more.

UAC opens on Wednesday 3 August and on time applications close by midnight on 30 September. All students will receive a UAC login pin in the mail which they will need, along with their BOSTES student number, to start their application. Please keep your login details stored safely. The UAC Guide will tell you everything you need to know for completing an application. EAS, SRS and Equity Scholarships also open on Wednesday 3 August, see Ms Wailes if you'd like a booklet for more information on these schemes. For more details visit the UAC website <http://www.uac.edu.au/>.

If students require support completing their application, please book in a time with Ms Wailes. If parents have any questions regarding their daughter's application, please phone the school.

Ms Wailes
Careers Adviser

YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION

On 20 July, Year 10 spent the day attending subject selection workshops. Year 10 spent periods 1 and 2 learning about all the possible subject options they could select for Years 11 and 12. Workshops from all faculties educated Year 10 students about the subjects which would interest them, what the course consists of and what skills they would need to be able to complete the course. Year 10 found the workshops very educational and useful in helping them choose their senior subjects.

Year 10 had a presentation on the subject selection process the following day. The presentation included a detailed description of how the subject selection works and what ATAR and non-ATAR subjects constitute. At the end of the presentation students were given their subject selection sheets and were able to finally choose their subjects for their senior years. A big thanks to Ms Wailes for organising a very successful day.

By: Skye and Farah
Year 9 Media Team



Year 10 Subject Selection Workshops

PDHPE DANCE DISPLAY 2016

On 30 June, Years 7-10 showcased their wonderful talents in their annual Dance Display. Year 7 had the task of choreographing a dance with the theme "Sport" and Year 8's theme was "Kings and Queens of Pop". Years 9 and 10 chose their own theme and song and choreographed their dance in collaborative groups. They ranged from Contemporary to Hip Hop and some storylines were evident through costumes and complex dance moves which included the Year 10's dressing up in the image of dolls.

Once again, the students gave input about what kind of costumes they would wear and they looked spectacular. Costumes were in an array of colours that stood out and were described as "colourful like the rainbow", colourful and dynamic gymnastics ribbons and spray painted shirts worn by our Year 9 Dance elective students made for a spectacular showcase. Once again, the students gave input about what kind of costumes they would wear and they looked amazing.

The performers entertained an audience of fellow peers as well as to Year 4 and 5 students from the area's feeder schools. The primary school students could not take their eyes off the stage as the performers displayed flair, creativity and enthusiasm under the bright lights on stage, commenting "I can't wait to come here to Birrong".

All dances were executed perfectly and the display was one of which Birrong students and teachers are proud. The Birrong students demonstrated commitment and pride with their dances not only on the Dance Display day but throughout the term. The PDHPE staff worked tirelessly and supported the students throughout this dance journey.

So, a big congratulations to all PDHPE students and PDHPE staff who assisted along the way. They definitely topped it this year! The award for the best overall performance went to Act 17, Salute: Yasmin Abdelkader, Manal El-Jamalaoui, Areen Yaseen, Amal Bahsa, Vivian Pham and Monique Steel. The best Year 7 and 8 class group went to Act 18, Shake It Off, by Miss Waltho's class group 7G and the Encouragement award went to Act 14, Nightmare Mix: Andrea Ung, Amanda Lee, Jessica Donnellan, Jathusika Athawan and Esra Cevik.

Next year will be even bigger and better!

Mrs Lord and PDHPE Faculty



CAPA REPORT

CAPA Extravaganza

Term 3 is always a busy term for the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty. We have our annual Extravaganza on Wednesday 24 August (Week 6) between 3pm and 5pm. This is the one opportunity to see the Year 12 Bodies of Work before they go to the marking centre for their final HSC assessment. As usual there is a wide variety of thought provoking works in a range of media areas across every year group.

The musical items on the evening will be captivating and may even reveal a future star. Mr Eveleigh has programmed an enthralling afternoon of singing and performing, carefully selecting quality acts across all year groups.

The Hospitality students will be coordinating the mouth-watering finger food and drinks. This always adds that touch of sophistication and the service is second to none.

Everyone is welcome and by coming you will have the opportunity to vote for the work you feel is worthy of the People's Choice Award. The winning artwork will become a school acquisition to be displayed in the front foyer gallery.

We look forward to seeing you on the afternoon.

'Advancing Creative Minds' Day

The CAPA faculty is hosting a Visual Art and Music 'Advancing Creative Minds' day on Thursday 18 August for Year 5 students. This day will provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience and enhance their expertise in the subjects of Visual Arts and Music. Students will be working in response to specific creative programs whilst under the guidance and supervision of specialist art and music teachers.

The artwork created by the students will be exhibited as part of the Creative and Performing Arts Extravaganza.

AIM Excursion

At the end of Term 2, Years 9, 10 and 12 elective Music had the opportunity to attend an excursion to the Australian Institute of Music. The day involved a vocal and performance focused workshop to assist students in developing their presentation skills on a live stage. It was a fantastic experience for the girls with professional performances from a number of expert vocalists. During the first segment there were demonstrations of vocal songs from musicals along with commentary on what it means to share a story through song. The second segment saw the workshoping of student performances from various schools including a scintillating performance from Birrong's own Eseta Latu with the Doris Day song "Dream a Little Dream of Me".



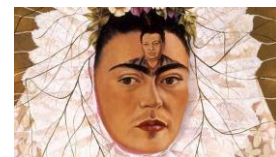
AIM excursion participants



The day drew to a close with a group lesson in performance facilitated by AIM staff but led by our highly talented vocalist, Danielle Assaad. The song "Love Yourself" by Justin Bieber was highly enjoyable as all students participated in this group performance on a professional stage. The AIM excursion was an invaluable experience for our girls to develop their skills in a professional setting.

Important Dates in Term 3

- Year 5 'Advancing Creative Minds' Day: 18/8/16 (Week 5).
- CAPA Extravaganza: 24/8/16 (Week 6).
- Year 7VA excursion to Royal Botanic Gardens: 2/9/16 (Week 7).
- Years 9, 10, 11 & 12VA excursion to the Frida Kahlo exhibition at the AGNSW: 16/9/16 (Week 9).



By: CAPA Faculty

ENGLISH REPORT



The English faculty is escorting Year 7 students to our wonderful Opera House to see Shakespeare's renowned play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' on Friday 19 August. We have enjoyed a close relationship with the Bell Shakespeare company for years now and it's gratifying to be able to share this exciting experience with our students. As you all are aware, our school aims to promote creative and critical thinking in our students. We, in the English faculty, believe that theatre experiences offer rich opportunities for our students to explore their world and establish their place within it.

Below is a synopsis of the play. Please take the time to read it with your daughter and perhaps it will allow you to have meaningful discussions about their theatre experience.

Celebrations are planned to mark the marriage of Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. Egeus comes before Theseus with his daughter Hermia, who is in love with Lysander, although her father is insisting that she marry Demetrius. The Duke orders Hermia to obey her father, in accordance with Athenian law, otherwise she will either be put to death or forced to enter a convent.

Hermia and Lysander decide to elope that night. They reveal their plan to Hermia's best friend, Helena. Helena is Demetrius' ex-girlfriend and is still in love with him, although he doesn't love her anymore. Hoping to win back his affection, Helena tells Demetrius of the plan. That night, Hermia and Lysander steal away to the forest, with Demetrius and Helena in hot pursuit.

Oberon and Titania, fairy rulers of the forest, have quarrelled over Titania's refusal to give up an Indian boy – her foster child – to Oberon. Plotting his revenge, Oberon orders Puck to seek out a magic flower whose juice, squeezed on the eyes of someone asleep, will cause them to fall in love with the first creature they see on waking. Oberon sneaks up on the sleeping Titania and drops the juice of the flower in her eye. He hopes she will wake up when "some vile thing" is near.

Taking pity on Helena, Oberon also tells Puck to use the juice on Demetrius so that he'll fall in love with her, but Puck, mistaking the two young Athenian men in the forest, uses it on Lysander instead. Lysander promptly falls in love with Helena, forgetting all about his love for Hermia.

Trying to rectify his mistake, Puck puts the love juice on Demetrius' eyes and he too falls in love with Helena. Now both youth men love Helena and hate Hermia.

*Meanwhile, Bottom the Weaver and a group of Athenian tradesmen are planning to perform a play, *The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe*, in celebration of the Duke's wedding. They decide to rehearse in the forest so that no one will see them and their performance will be a surprise.*

Puck sees Bottom and the others rehearsing. He decides to have some fun with these "hempen home-spuns" and casts a spell, giving Bottom the head of an ass. When the other tradesmen see Bottom transformed, they run off in fear, leaving him alone in the forest. Just then, Titania wakes up, sees Bottom, and falls rapturously in love with him.

Eventually, all the enchantments are lifted, the human lovers are happily paired, Titania and Oberon are reconciled, and Bottom is returned to normal. The three couples are married and Bottom's acting troupe performs their play at the wedding celebration.

Happy theatre going!!!

2016 Year 9 Spoken Word Competition

How is youth voice a significant force in shaping an individual's identity and place in the world?

The 2016 Year 9 Spoken Word Competition was once again an inspiring and engaging event. Representatives from each Year 9 English class dramatically presented the spoken word poems that they had composed, to an audience of both teachers and students in the Little Theatre.

The messages of the poems were strongly expressed through the performance aspects of their presentations. Students effectively used volume, tone, facial expressions and movements to enhance their ideas.

Both students and teachers enjoyed the innovative nature of the performance poetry and gained insight into different perspectives on issues that are relevant to society today. This is a unit which is thoroughly enjoyed by teachers and students alike because of the power it lends to the youth voice.

Bravo to every student that participated. Special commendations go to the competition winners Maryam Elkashouty, Zienah Al-Thifairy and April Boyer.

The English Faculty

LIBRARY NEWS

Last term was extremely busy in the library with the performance of Echo and Narcissus by the Time Travel History Club. In addition, more than 40 students made art to show their support for Aboriginal Reconciliation and celebrations were held for our best PRC readers.



The cast of Echo and Narcissus

This term promises to be even bigger as we get ready for Book Week in Week 7. The annual Book Week competition is on again with more than 100 prizes to be won (most of them books!) Students in Years 7-9 enter by creating posters, performances or puppets to celebrate their favourite books or by contributing to the world of fiction by creating their own stories.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is also open to students in Year 7-9 and challenges them to read 20 books before 19 August. So far 184 students have taken up the challenge with 19 having completed their 20 books already! Congratulations to Jathusika Athawan for being the first to complete this year. The library is hosting celebrations on Fridays this term to reward those students who complete their challenge; what a great chance to get together with other readers and talk about books!

In Reconciliation Week we started making a timeline to represent 60 000 years of Aboriginal history in Australia. Each student created their own panel with motifs from Indigenous Art. The motif of a waving line representing the river of time and the Rainbow Serpent from Dreamtime mythology links the pictures together. Originally planned to be only 30 panels long, there are currently 53 pieces in the artwork. When complete each panel will represent 1000 years of the human history of Australia. The girls have created some beautiful work so do come down and enjoy it.

The Time Travel History Club makers meet at lunchtime to paint and build and the performers meet on Tuesday afternoons to write and rehearse. Their next performance will be the Indian legend of The Theft of Sita. New people are always welcome, so come to the library to find out more.



"The Romans"

Ms Waters
Relieving Teacher Librarian

P&C NEWS

At the last meeting the P&C was given an opportunity to apply for a Community Building Partnerships grant.

The P&C applied for a grant of \$85,000. If successful, the funds will be used to construct an Outdoor Covered Learning area to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle for girls.

Our sincere thanks to Tania Mihailuk, Member for Bankstown, Ms Fletcher and Ms George for supporting our submission.

The P&C meetings are held in Week 8 of each term commencing at 5pm. I encourage all parents and community members to attend and have a valuable input into their daughters' education.

Melinda Araujo
Treasurer P&C



COMING FULL CIRCLE – A PEER SUPPORT LEADER'S STORY



The following article celebrates Birrong Girls High School's success in Peer Support.

Foreword

We recently had word from Miss Ratnayake of Birrong Girls High School in regards to one of her students wanting to get a letter to us.

It perfectly exemplifies the development and acquisition of critical protective factors and passing these on to her peers through her experience. Peer Support Australia

The moment that the excitable young Year 7's entered the gates of Birrong Girls was an absolute startling moment for many of us, especially me; watching the nervous, primary school nutshells open in the 'Bigger world' – allowed me to have a flashback to the moment I was new.

Peer Support intrigued me because of my leaders that left a mark on me when I was in Year 7. Being a Year 7 student, entering a different school and meeting new people is a daunting and fearful moment. Peer Support is a fundamental program that fights that for Year 7's, allowing them to not only be taught by their classroom teachers but their peers. Peer Support provided knowledge, experience, social, emotional and practical help to Year 7 students at Birrong Girls High School.

Peer Support is a peer led, skills based learning program. It empowered young people like me to support others and contribute positively to society and my school. Most importantly, it provided me with an authentic leadership opportunity allowing me to provide students with a supportive learning environment in which they developed skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to improve their mental, social and emotional well being. Not only did this fundamental program enhance my learning it also allowed me to develop key skills in resilience, assertiveness, problem solving and decision making.

When I was chosen as a Peer Support Leader I was enthralled by this opportunity as I knew it was one of the only times I would actually gain that experience of becoming a teacher to high school students. Whilst I was a mentor, not only did I get to meet numerous students from all walks of life, I was granted with the opportunity to remain friends and leaders of these students for the remainder of my high school years. Nothing brought me greater satisfaction than the time I resolved an incident between two Year 7 students.

Overall, my Peer Support experience allowed me to develop lifelong skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to make healthy life decisions.

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY

At Birrong Girls High School we believe parents are partners in schooling.

Tell Them From Me is an online survey that helps schools capture the views of students, teachers and parents.

As a parent you can help the school to respond more effectively to community values, aspirations and needs by completing the survey.

Parent access to **Tell Them From Me** will be available throughout the first few weeks of Term 4 (10-21 October).

We will provide more details as the dates approach. In the meantime, please put a note on your calendar. We encourage you to participate.

REMINDER FOR ALL SCHOOL OPAL CARD USERS

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

Tapping on and off is an important condition of using your school Opal card, whether you travel by bus or train.



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR
For your diary / noticeboard

August:

- Monday, 1st to Friday, 5th ▪ Education Week 2016
- Monday, 1st to Friday, 12th ▪ Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement
- Tuesday, 2nd to Wednesday, 3rd ▪ Regional Athletics Carnival
- Monday, 15th to Friday, 26th ▪ Year 12 Trial Exams
- Tuesday, 16th ▪ Year 8 Jump Rope for Heart, periods 3&4
- Monday, 29th August to Friday, 2nd September ▪ Book Week
- Monday, 29th August to Friday, 9th September ▪ Year 11 Exams
- Wednesday, 31st August ▪ Year 8 Field Day

**COURSES FOR PARENTS
IN COMPUTER SKILLS AND ADMINISTRATION
SKILLS – UPSKILL AND GAIN EMPLOYMENT**

Bankstown and Padstow TAFE

We help our students become computer literate to achieve their goal of employment or to function in today's technical age. Our qualified caring teachers work with students every step of the way. We offer flexible programs individually suited to students' needs, with options of both day and night courses. We currently have openings in Computer Skills; Business Administration Medical; Finance and Customer Service.

YOUR learning needs are our objective. Please call our friendly team on 9780 5585 or email Lyn the Head Teacher on: lyn.farmer@tafensw.edu.au.



**Teaching someone to drive
can be a **happy** experience.**

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

TIME & DATE Thursday 11 August 2016 6.30pm - 8.00pm	VENUE Bankstown Civic Tower, Level 3 Crn Rickard and Jacobs Street Bankstown	BOOK NOW ON 9707 9424 jenny.murray@bankstown.nsw.gov.au *Bookings are essential
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**Helping learner drivers
become safe drivers**



Supported by



You must not
stop **on**



or **near** a
pedestrian crossing

Australian Road Rule-171-173

**You must not stop on or near a
pedestrian crossing at any time.**

Stopping includes when the vehicle is not moving but the engine is still running.



School Zone

Fine from \$425 + 2 demerit points

All other roads:

Fine from \$319 + 1 demerit point