



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

## The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This is the first edition of the *Birrongs Bulletin* for 2017, and I warmly welcome to the school community our many new students, especially our enthusiastic and keen Year 7 students and their families.

In addition, I am very pleased to welcome our new teachers and staff: I am confident that they will all complement and support our school's strong culture and values.

I encourage all new students and parents to come along to the **Welcome Barbecue** to be held on **Wednesday 15 February from 5-7pm**. This is an excellent opportunity for all new parents to meet their daughter's teachers and classmates in an informal and relaxed setting. Take a moment to introduce yourself to your daughter's teachers and find out the best ways to support her learning.



### Outstanding HSC results

The class of 2016 maintained our school's impressive record of achievement in the HSC with a top ATAR of 97.5. Congratulations to the 115 successful students who achieved an HSC and especially to the high achievers whose names were published in the Board of Studies' High Achievers' List for marks over 90 in a course. All teachers of the girls in Year 12 2016 were very pleased with our 16 Band 6s (above 90 in a course) in 9 courses shared amongst 10 students. Many of our 2016 HSC class achieved very high Australian Tertiary Achievement Ranks (ATARs) and were offered places at university.

Congratulations girls, we are very proud of you!

### 2016 Achievements Celebrated

**Our 2016 Presentation Day** was held at the Bankstown Sports Club and was a whole school celebration of the academic, sporting and civic achievements of our students. Lee Dixon, an ex-Birrongs girl who has forged a highly successful career in the political world as a Chief of Staff, was our inspirational guest speaker. Lee spoke about her fond memories of Birrong Girls and the importance of hard work, self-belief, persistence and resilience in shaping a successful career and fulfilling personal life. She left our students with the memorable challenge to be bigger, better and

bolder, to reach for the stars and pursue their goals with passion and tenacity.

Ms Fedes and her team ensured that this event was a great showcase of our students' success. Thank you too to all the families who came to share the celebration.

### HSC Minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standard

Many parents will be aware that from 2020, all Year 12 students must reach the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive an HSC.

Students in Year 9 this year will be the first students to prove that they meet the standard. They can do this by achieving Band 8 results or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests.

Online tests will be available for students twice a year in Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 for students who are unable to demonstrate that they meet the minimum standard in Year 9. Students will only need to sit the online tests in the areas in which they have not yet met the minimum standard. These tests will be available for relevant Year 10 students in 2018.

The online test is also available for up to five years after starting the HSC.

We will monitor those students impacted by this and ensure that they take up the online testing opportunities to secure the HSC.

Students who do not meet the minimum standard will receive a Record of School Achievement on leaving school.

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### School Diaries

All students will receive a school diary this year to help them develop organisation skills and to support them in meeting homework and assessment deadlines.

Students who use school diaries effectively are more successful learners because they complete tasks and assessments by due deadlines, organise their time effectively and develop positive study habits. Students should bring their diaries each day, enter due dates for homework and assessments and use their diaries to plan chunks of time to ensure that tasks are completed. Teachers will be working with students to support them in using their diaries effectively. I request that parents support teachers by monitoring their daughter's use of the diary at home.

### DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)

Our DEAR program is a very important aspect of our school's literacy policy. All students are required to bring a novel to roll call where they can experience the joy of uninterrupted reading time and develop good reading habits.

Research tells us that reading for pleasure strengthens comprehension, builds vocabulary and improves spelling. A good book does more than that: in providing an entry into another world, it offers different points of view and different ways of thinking, nurturing our creativity and critical thinking skills.

Please support our DEAR program by encouraging your daughter to read widely and by ensuring that she is prepared for DEAR by bringing a novel of her choice each day.

### Parent Involvement

All parents are invited to be a part of the school's parent committee. Supporting the school and being involved in the school's planning and decision-making processes can be very motivating for students as it shows that their parents are interested and know what happens at school.

This term's P&C meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8 March at 5pm in the Common Room**. All parents are encouraged to attend the year's first P&C meeting.

### School Uniform Policy

Our School Code of Behaviour requires students to **wear the school uniform with pride**.

It is my expectation and the expectation of the entire school community that **full uniform is worn by every student not only at school but to and from school every day**. Our school community is very supportive of our Uniform Policy because they see it as an important aspect of our school culture. Uniform helps girls develop their sense of belonging to the school and items like fully enclosed leather school shoes help ensure their personal safety. I will arrange interviews with the

parents of girls who do not comply fully with the Uniform Policy.

### Privacy and Communications

Throughout the year, the school will be publishing examples of student work as well as names and photographs of our girls in publications such as the local newspapers, the Birrong Bulletin, the school magazine and the school's website. If you have any objections to your daughter's work, name or photograph being published in this way could you please inform the Principal in writing as soon as possible.

### Congratulations to:

- Liana Arahman, Jana Chahine, Manal El-Jamalaoui, Eman Hamed, Suyoung Lee, Katherine Lieu, Ann Phan, Nada Salama, Monique Steel, Vanessa Tran, Emy Truong and Rubaisha Waseem from this year's Year 11 who were outstanding ambassadors for our school at The University of Technology Summer School, Sydney, during the January holidays.
- Congratulations to D'Mor Chegade, Constance Velkovska and Stacey Webb (Year 12) who attended a student conference at the UNSW from 16-19 January. These students gained great insight into university life as a result of their involvement in the U@UNSW program.
- Alexandra Viles who is a very deserving recipient of the 2016 Jason Clare Community Service Award which was presented to her on the evening of 8 December at Bankstown Sports Club. Alexandra is to be commended for her strong social conscience and her determined efforts to improve the lives of others through her extensive volunteer work both at school and within our local community.



Alexandra at the Awards Evening

- Fatima Al-Helfy of Year 12 2016, who was awarded the prestigious Susan and Isaac Wakil Scholarship to support her in the first three years of her university education.

### Coming Events:

- **Welcome Barbecue for all new parents and students** will be held on **Wednesday 15 February from 5-7pm.**

- The school's Swimming Carnival will take place at Birrong Leisure Centre on **Wednesday 1 March.** All students must attend this important date in our sporting calendar. Even if your daughter is not a swimmer or competitor it is important that she attends to maintain her record of school attendance and to support her classmates.

- A meeting of the P&C will be held in the Common Room at **5pm on Wednesday 8 March.** All parents are invited to attend and show their support for their daughter's education by getting involved in the P&C.

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 wish you all a very happy and rewarding 2017.

Margaret Fletcher  
**Principal**

### REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

As we begin 2017 the Deputies wish every student from Year 7 to Year 12 success in meeting all the challenges which await you this year. Now is the time to set your short and long term goals so that each of you can achieve your personal best. We trust that this will be a year during which each student can take pride in her academic growth and in the personal excellence she is able to apply to all areas of her life.



We are glad to begin our first Deputies' Report of 2017 with stories of students setting goals and working towards successfully achieving their ambitions. Whilst they were still in Year 10, twelve students completed an expression of interest to attend Summer School and then underwent a selection process which included written applications and interviews. The Year 10 students were actively involved in a university partnerships program that prepared them for their involvement in the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Summer School program. The program took place during the last two weeks of the school holidays. While most of us were having a sleep in or lazy day around the house these now Year 11 students were motivated to be attending university and engaged in a specific course of study.

The girls selected from one of the following courses that provided them with 'real life hands on Uni experiences':

Course	Practical Experience
Media and Communication	Film making, production and editing
Health	Nursing role plays, first aid scenarios and midwifery
Design	Industrial design, animation, fashion and textiles
Science	Environmental science, forensic science and microbiology
Engineering and IT	Game development, internet networking, civil engineering and robotics
Business	'Company' design and development

The UTS Summer School concluded with a formal graduation where the students wore graduation gowns and were awarded for their hard work and efforts. The experience was very rewarding for all the girls who participated. It provided an opportunity they will never forget. We are very proud of our students, many of whom took on leadership roles during Summer School and we know that the skills they developed at UTS will make them more determined to do well and to achieve their own personal goals.

This year we will be increasing our focus on student reflection. Students are required to reflect on their learning at the end of every week during the Friday roll call period and formally address the following questions in their school diaries: 'What went well this week and why?' and 'What do I need to improve / work on next week?'

The aims of reflection are for students to increase their self-awareness and regulation of their own learning. Reflection on school work enhances its meaning and clarifies learning. Reflection also provides an opportunity for students to understand what motivates them best as learners and how to build on successful learning strategies.

There are many opportunities available at Birrong Girls High for your daughter to be involved in and develop her own personal skills. Year 11 students are working hard as Peer Support leaders supporting the Year 7 students. As a result of their involvement in this program, Year 11 students are developing communication, organisational and leadership skills of their own.

The school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 1 March at Birrong Leisure Centre. It is a day for fun and participation. All students are expected to attend the carnival as they would any other school day.



We hope to see all the Year 7 parents at the Welcome BBQ on Wednesday 15 February from 5-7pm.

To the stars - Ad Astra!

Ms Cross and Ms George  
**Deputy Principals**

## INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS

### **Wafa Abouzeid** **Learning Support**



My name is Wafa Abouzeid and I have been lucky enough to get a position on the Learning Support team at Birrong Girls High School in 2017.

I have an honours degree in Human Movement (PDHPE teacher) with a double degree in Mathematics from Sydney University. I completed this Bachelor of Education in 1990.

I taught PDHPE for four years at Ingleburn High School and then transferred to Sir Joseph Banks High School from 1995-2001. I taught Mathematics for those seven years and loved every minute of it but I enjoyed teaching PDHPE a little more. I have had numerous temporary full-time and casual positions from 2001 until now, while having three wonderful children.

My favourite part of teaching is helping students realise their potential and helping them achieve their goals. I would never look back at becoming a teacher, it is the best thing I ever did.

I would like to thank all teachers and students who have made my transition to Birrong Girls High so smooth and enjoyable and I look forward to 2017.

### **Melanie Parkinson** **Science**



My name is Melanie Parkinson and I am delighted to be joining the Science Faculty at Birrong Girls High School for 2017. I have a particular interest in the natural world and am looking forward to sharing that with the students at Birrong. Science is the best subject as it allows students to develop their team work, problem solving, understanding of the world, literacy, numeracy and technology skills all in one place.

I completed a Master of Teaching at the University of Technology (UTS) last year, having been lucky enough to do my final placement at Birrong Girls High School and my first at Canterbury Boys High School. After graduation, I spent two terms teaching Science and Marine Studies at Gympsea Technology High School. As well as my teaching degree, I have degrees in Science (majoring in Zoology) and Communications (majoring in Media Production). Before re-training as a teacher, I spent eight years working at the ABC.

I would like to thank both the students and the staff for the warm welcome they have given me. I am already enjoying being part of this lovely school community and am looking forward to a year of serious fun.

### **Georgette Athos** **English / Learning Support**



My name is Georgette Athos. I have recently joined the Learning Support faculty at Birrong Girls. I might look familiar as I taught at Birrong Girls in 2015 and undertook my practicum teaching here in 2014 with the English faculty.

I came to Secondary teaching a little later in my career after previously completing a Master of Arts TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). I was a TESOL teacher for over eight years, where I had the opportunity to teach many adult migrants and refugees. I wouldn't be surprised if I taught some of the parents of our students over the years.

Although I thoroughly enjoyed teaching adults, my dream job was to teach Secondary English. After completing my Grad. Dip (Secondary) at ACU, most of my teaching experience has been with students from a NESB, so I still have the opportunity to use my TESOL skills with students.

I am very happy to be back at Birrong Girls as I have always found the staff to be very welcoming and supportive, so it feels a little like "coming home".



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

Parents are invited to attend the  
P & C MEETING  
on **Wednesday 8 March 2017**  
at 5pm in the Common Room

**Morgan Legg  
English/Drama**



My name is Morgan Legg and I am thrilled to be at Birrong Girls High joining the English/Drama faculty. I am a first-year teacher and am very excited to be teaching in such a wonderful, welcoming school.

I completed my Bachelor of Arts/Creative Arts (majoring in Theatre and Literature), as well as my Masters of Teaching at the University of Wollongong. During my study, I taught at Smith's Hill High School, Keira High School and Woonona High School. I have also spent many years providing private tutoring for a range of different students. I am extremely passionate about instilling a love of learning, reading and film in my students, as well as performance (especially in my Drama classes). I also hope to encourage them to become well-rounded individuals with varied interests.

I would like to extend my thanks to the very supportive staff who have helped me settle in and the lovely students who have given me a warm welcome. I look forward to working with everyone at Birrong Girls High School.

### **WELFARE MATTERS**

Welcome back and happy 2017. The Welfare Team wishes all students and their families a very productive, successful and enjoyable year. We look forward to working with families in our school community to support the learning, development and wellbeing of our students.

The Welfare Team includes the School Counsellors, Ms Athena Tselepi, Ms Susan Leigh and Ms Patty Kalavritinos, the Year Advisers and Assistant Year Advisers, as listed, and the Head Teacher Female Students, Ms Cathy Salvagio.

Parents and guardians can make an appointment to see our school Counsellors, the Head Teacher Female Students or the relevant Year Adviser if there are issues or concerns that you wish to discuss.

Below is a list of the Year Advisers and Assistant Year Advisers for this year.

YEAR 7 ADVISER - Ms Rixon  
Assistant - Ms Shinas

YEAR 8 ADVISER - Ms Anthony  
Assistant - Mr Colley

YEAR 9 ADVISER - Ms Rothwell  
Assistant - Ms Seo

YEAR 10 ADVISER - Ms Waltho  
Assistant - Ms Zomaya

YEAR 11 ADVISER - Ms Hawk  
Assistant - Ms Lazarevski

YEAR 12 ADVISER - Mr Hobbs  
Assistant – Mr Eveleigh

### **Student Assistance Scheme**

Each year the school is provided with funds from the State Government to help students from families who are experiencing financial difficulties.

The school is able to help families by allocating some of these funds towards the payment of uniforms, either new or second hand, excursions and subject fees.

Parents of Year 7 to Year 10 students can telephone the school to speak to Ms Salvagio or make an appointment to see her. Parents of Year 11 and Year 12 will need to speak to Ms Fletcher about their financial difficulties. Parents must be able to show that there is financial need. Pensioner Concession cards or Centrelink cards can be used to show the need of the family.

### **School Uniform Policy**

It is our school policy that all students wear full school uniform. Our uniform can be purchased at Berelle School Wear, 3 Bellona Avenue, Regents Park, phone 9738 1264. The trading hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm and Saturday 9.30am to 1.00pm.

Our uniform includes enclosed **black hard leather school shoes** for safety, especially when working in the Science laboratories and the kitchens.

For students who wear long sleeves the school has a long sleeved blouse. Wearing a short sleeved blouse with a long sleeved undergarment is not considered to be part of the uniform and is not acceptable.

If for a very good reason an item of uniform cannot be worn on a given day the student is required to have a **note of explanation signed by a parent or guardian** which the student presents to her Year Adviser **before** school to

obtain an Out of Uniform Pass. If the student fails to follow the appropriate procedure consequences will apply. It would be expected that students have more than one school outfit and that their uniform items are washed and ironed regularly so that they are in a clean uniform at all times. Excuses such as "it's dirty" or "it's in the wash" are not acceptable.

The **hems on school trousers and skirts** should be neatly sewn and should not drag on the floor. Ragged and torn hems are not acceptable and are a safety concern.

Being in full school uniform demonstrates a student's commitment to being a positive member of the school community and enhances the good image of our school.

### Study Skills Program

**Year 12** students will participate in the Elevate Education HSC preparation seminars on **Thursday 9 March during periods 2 and 3** which will focus on study and memory strategies and examination techniques to assist students to be more effective learners and to cope better with examinations. Students will also be provided with access to the Elevate Education website and online resources to assist students with HSC resources, study, assignments and exams throughout the year.

**Year 11** students will participate in Elevate Education HSC preparation seminars on **Friday 24 March during periods 3 and 4** which will focus on effective learning strategies, time management and study techniques to enhance students' performance as a senior student. Students will also be provided with access to the Elevate Education website and online resources to assist students with study, assignments and exams throughout the year.

All students must attend these very beneficial seminars which will be of a reasonable cost as the school will pay part of the cost. A note with details about the seminars will be issued to students closer to the time.

### Year 7 Vaccinations

Our school is participating in the NSW Adolescent Vaccination Program for Year 7 students. The following vaccinations will be provided over the year.

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination for cervical cancer prevention, three doses will be given. Vaccination in Year 7 is ideal as the immune system gives a strong response to vaccines at this age.
- Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine, one dose will be given. This is recommended for students who have not had the disease or have not already been vaccinated.

- Diphtheria, tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine, one dose is given.

Year 7 students will be issued the vaccination consent form later this term. Parents/ guardians should read the information provided with the consent form to understand the facts about the vaccines that will be offered. Information in languages other than English is available at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/school\\_prog/languages\\_forms.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/school_prog/languages_forms.asp)

### Vaccination dates for this year are:

**Thursday 2 March** Vaccines: Diphtheria, tetanus and Pertussis and HPV (1st dose)

**Thursday 25 May** Vaccines: HPV (2nd dose) and Varicella (Chickenpox)

**Thursday 26 October** Vaccines: HPV (3<sup>rd</sup> dose)  
No student will be vaccinated without the signed original consent form.

After the vaccination students will be given a Record of Vaccination card to take home to keep their immunisation records up to date. Please keep vaccination records in a safe place as they may be required for future work or travel.

Ms Salvagio

**Head Teacher Female Students**

## CAREERS NEWS

Welcome back students, I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break. 2017 is already looking to be an exciting year ahead with lots of valuable and important events and opportunities on the Careers calendar.

### Year 10

2017 is an extremely exciting and important year for Year 10 students and their families in regards to our Work Experience program and Subject Selection.

Year 10 will complete a compulsory 2 weeks of Work Experience this year, one week in May and one week in November. Work Experience supports our students to gain valuable knowledge and real world experience in a workplace of their choice. The first week of Work Experience will come around quickly in Term 2, starting Monday 22 May to Friday 26 May (Week 5). Students and families are encouraged to discuss this wonderful opportunity and parents/carers are urged to support students to make informed decisions about the industry they wish to experience. Over the next few weeks, Year 10 will complete a Careers lesson on this program where they will learn the process, what's involved, expectations and be given all of the required documents, including a Parent/Carer's Guide that will be sent

home with them. If families wish to learn more information or ask additional questions about the Work Experience program, please visit the following website:

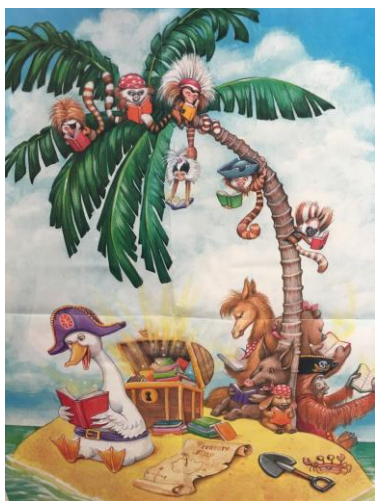
[www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/worklearn/worklearnpolicy.html](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/worklearn/worklearnpolicy.html) or phone the school.

### Year 12

Year 12 have returned to school with maturity and a serious attitude in their approach to their final year of study. Already, I've had numerous bookings to discuss post-school options with students. Year 12 are advised to book an appointment with me to sit down and discuss, research and investigate their interests and possible career paths after Year 12. Parents/carers are very welcome to make an appointment with me also, please phone the school to book an appointment.

Ms Wailes  
Careers Adviser

## LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome! In 2017 the library will be an exciting place for reading, learning and creative activities!

**Library hours** are 8am to 2.50pm. We are open lunchtime and recess (except Tuesday recess).

**Junior students** may borrow 4 fiction and 4 non-fiction items for 2 weeks. **Senior students** may borrow 6 fiction and 6 non-fiction items for two weeks. **New library cards** are free and replacement cards are \$1.00. Students are responsible for books borrowed under their name.

**Lost books** must be paid for and there are fines for overdue books. Students should never loan their cards to anyone else.

The library runs the **Scholastic Book Club** for students who like to buy books. In August we celebrate Book Week with competitions and prizes. There will be opportunities to meet authors and illustrators. The library runs creative writing

**BlogED** and **Bibliobattle** sessions where students compete to promote their favourite books. We encourage students to make requests for new books. The first opportunity to give us feedback and make requests is on **Library Lovers' Day**, Tuesday 14 February. Tell us what you love about libraries and win a prize!

A wide range of activities are run at lunchtime. Come and join in!

**Monday:** drama, storytelling, mask and puppet making; **Tuesday:** chess and Minecraft; **Wednesday:** knitting and crocheting; **Thursday:** Lego, jewellery and beading; **Friday:** Japanese arts and crafts.

Please remember that there is **no eating** in the library. Also remember that the school Mobile Phone Policy also operates in the library. **Mobile phones** must be turned off or they will be confiscated until the end of the day.

Mr Davidson  
Teacher Librarian

## WORK WITH THE WRAP WITH LOVE FOUNDATION!



Birrong Girls High School is running a knitting and crocheting program in partnership with The Wrap with Love Foundation. The Wrap with Love Foundation is a non-profit organisation that has over 30,000 volunteers contributing to making a difference in the world by providing warm wraps to ward off hypothermia. In the past 23 years they have sent more than 400,000 wraps to people in over 75 countries. These wraps are caring gifts from the people of Australia to the people of the world. Every wrap contributes to helping the cause. One wrap could help preserve a life of someone who is in need. So come together, every Wednesday lunch in the library. It is open to all grades. Mr Davidson will be teaching crocheting and Mrs Dyer will be teaching knitting. We work together as a community to help the world in whole. None of us is as good as all of us.

**By: Katherine Lieu and Khatera Latifi, Media Team**



## SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2017

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen to represent the school as a Sports House Captain for 2017.

### **Bundarra**

HC: Zahra Alrobeiy

VC: Malak Bakri

### **Inga**

HC: Hajer Habib

VC: Nadine Fahda

### **Miga**

HC: Caroline Leha

VC: Sekinat Olaniyan

### **Yurong**

HC: Catherine Zhuo

VC: Tania Tran

House Captains take on several leadership responsibilities within the school regarding a variety of sporting disciplines. They will assist House Patrons and the PDHPE faculty at all school carnivals including Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming. They will also assist at other sporting events such as the Edmondson Zone Cup. House Captains will be asked to actively promote sport and participation in sport to all year groups and are expected to model excellent sportsmanship at all times.

Well done to all successful students. We look forward to you enjoying this important leadership role.

Mrs Lord

**Head Teacher PDHPE**



## SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2017

**Date:** Wednesday, 1 March 2017 (Week 5A)

**Venue:** Birrong Leisure Centre, Wellington Road, Birrong. (The closest train station is Sefton.)

**Time:** 8.30am – 2.15pm.

**Travel:** Students make their own way to and from the pool. It is a mandatory day for all school students.

**Pool entry:** \$5.00 per student to be paid on the day, at the pool.

**Supervision:** Staff from Birrong Girls High School.

**Uniform:** Recognised swimming attire – lycra. House colours. Hat and sunscreen are recommended along with wet weather gear.

**Canteen:** Will be available on the day.

Younger brothers and sisters cannot be supervised at the carnival without their parents. Parents are welcome to attend; however, usual entry fee will apply.

Please hand in your note to your roll call teacher ASAP!

Mrs Lord

**Head Teacher PDHPE**

## 2016 QUICKSMART PRESENTATION



On Monday 5 December 2016, we held our Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4 QuickSmart Champion Presentation. This was attended by Ms Cross, Ms Blok, Ms Elmowy and QuickSmart coordinators and instructors, Ms Hmeidouch and Ms Turkoz. The award recipients for QuickSmart were presented with their trophies and awards. These awards are given to the girls who have had outstanding results and commitment while on the QuickSmart program throughout each of these terms.



Our award recipients were as follows:

Term 2: 2016 – Khadija Zreika, 7C

Term 3: 2016 – Monique Nowland-Judge, 8C

Term 3: 2016 – Alex Efthimiadis, 7H

Term 4: 2016 – Sarah Moharami – 7S

Congratulations, girls, for all your hard work and tremendous effort! Keep up the great work.

Ms Hmeidouch & Ms Turkoz

**QuickSmart Coordinators and Instructors**

## ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Remember, give your child every chance to succeed. One day absent from school here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	This is...	And therefore, from kindy to year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

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

**February:**

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>

- Year 7 (and new enrolments) Welcome BBQ, 5-7pm

**March:**

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>

- School Swimming Carnival at Birrong Leisure Centre, 8.30am – 2.15pm

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Year 7 Vaccinations

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup>

- Year 6 Open Morning, p2&3
- P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup>

- Parent/Teacher interviews, 2-6pm

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> and  
Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>

- Year 8 Swim School

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup>

- School Photo Day

### **To all new 2017 parents (and especially Year 7 parents!)**

You are invited to a

**B B Q**

**on Wednesday, 15 February 2017  
from 5.00pm – 7.00pm**

for a welcome to Birrong Girls High School.

We hope to see you there!



## Information for parents, guardians and students

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for you to submit school travel applications.

This means we will be able to process your applications online, making it easier and faster for parents, guardians and students to apply for school travel.

Applications for school travel in 2017 are now open, including for travel to Mascot and Green Square station and for private ferries. Parents, guardians and students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able via:

### Applications for 2017 school travel are now open via [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)

A new application is required when:

- applying for a School Opal card or travel pass for the first time,
- enrolling in Kindergarten, or
- requesting an additional entitlement as a result of a shared parental responsibility situation.

You will need to do an update application if the student has a current school travel pass and:

- is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3,
- is progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

Already have a School Opal card or travel pass?

- When you've updated, and you are eligible for free school travel next year, Transport for NSW will send you an email confirmation once your application has been processed. For travel in rural or regional NSW, we'll also inform your nominated transport operator(s).
- If you already have a School Opal card that does not need updating, or you've successfully re-applied, the Opal card will automatically be updated for travel next year. Do not throw it out as you'll be able to use it when the school year starts in 2017.
- If you currently have a printed travel pass provided by your transport operator, a new pass will be ready at the beginning of the new school year.



Department  
of Industry  
Resources & Energy

# Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills\*



Help is available to pay  
your energy bills.

For information on  
rebates and emergency  
assistance go to:

[www.resourcesandenergy  
.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates)

or phone Service NSW  
on 137 788

\* eligibility criteria apply

## YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Family Energy Rebate\*** – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

**NSW Gas Rebate\*** – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

**Medical Energy Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

**Low Income Household Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

**Life Support Rebate\*** – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

**EAPA\*** – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates) for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

## REMEMBER

If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.