



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

## The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

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

Issue No. 5

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### ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank the whole school community for their involvement in making Ms Fletcher's last week of school at the end of Term 2 a very memorable one. Her final assembly as Principal of Birrongo Girls High was very emotional with presentations from the Prefects, SRC and Media Team. Ms Fletcher was thanked for her dedication, leadership and support over the past 17 years; 13 years as Deputy Principal and 4 years as Principal. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her retirement.



### School Development Day

At our Term 3 School Development Day on Monday 23 July our teachers participated in a series of presentations and workshops on A Learning and Responding Matrix (ALARM) and Emotional Regulation. 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

The Front of School upgrade works as part of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program are in the final stages with the overall result being a very open and welcoming front reception area. There are some minor upgrades still to be completed on the entrance ramp from Cooper Road to the main entrance of the school.

Our school has been identified by the NSW Government to be a part of the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW. We have been identified and prioritised to receive substantial school upgrades. More information will be communicated to the school community as the process evolves.

A flyer from the NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure is attached to this newsletter.

### Year 12

For Year 12 it is their final term of high school life and they are now finalising major projects and preparing for their Trial HSC examinations which will commence in Week 5, Monday 20 August. 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. We wish our Year 12 students the very best for their Trials for the HSC. You will need to know that the Year 12 students are in the middle of a most important time in their student life and they are studying and preparing themselves for their examinations. They will return to regular classes on Monday 3 September.

### Term 3

The start of Semester 2 is a very important term as it provides opportunities for a fresh start for those students who did not make the progress they had hoped for last semester. For those who had a very positive first half of the year, this is the time for consolidation and further improvement. Students are asked to take the time to read their Semester 1 academic report comments and consider the feedback their teachers have provided. Please encourage your daughter to reflect on her performance and work hard to be the best she can be. I encourage any parents who have concerns about their child's progress to contact the relevant teacher or appropriate year adviser. It is important that we keep communication open and that we work together in the best interests of all our students.

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### Uniform Matters

Our school community has very high expectations with regard to uniform because it presents a positive image of the school to the public and creates a sense of belonging. Now that winter is here, students should be wearing the winter uniform which includes the woollen school jumper and blazer, available from our uniform supplier, Berelle School Wear at Regents Park. A navy or white scarf is also acceptable. Cardigans, jackets, hoodies, short sleeved school shirts with long sleeved undergarments or T-shirts of any colour are not part of our uniform and are unacceptable. Please ensure that your daughter conforms fully to the school's uniform policy, a copy of which can be found in her school diary or on our website, and wears her uniform with pride.

### Congratulations to:

- All the talented dancers and their keen supporters who made the PDHPE display on Thursday 5 July a tremendous success. A very enthusiastic audience of Year 4 and 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.
- Vivian Pham of Year 12 who was invited to attend the International Congress of Youth Voices conference in San Francisco as the Australian delegate following her recent book publication. This is indeed a great honor and testament to her talent and dedication.

### Thank you to:

- The parents who took the opportunity to discuss their daughter's Semester 1 reports with the teachers at the Parent/Teacher afternoon on Tuesday 3 July. The feedback received from the online survey completed by parents on the evening was very positive. Parents indicated they believe very strongly that:
  - 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 school provides helpful information about their daughters' progress.

### Coming Events

- Year 11 and 12 Vaccinations 10 August
- Year 12 Trials 20–31 August
- P&C Meeting 29 August at 5pm
- Year 8 Field Day 29 August
- CAPA Extravaganza 30 August 3-5pm

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.

Renee George  
**Acting 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 face their HSC examinations. It can be a challenging time because while they are refining their study habits to assist their examination preparation there are still assessment tasks that also require their attention.

Year 11 students will be involved in the nomination and selection of the 2018–2019 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 2019. Students gained valuable insights into the rigour required for all Preliminary courses before having to make their ultimate selections. The subject selection information session for Year 10 students and interested parents focused on the subject selection process, making appropriate course selections, Preliminary and HSC requirements and ATAR information to assist in the overall selection of 2019 courses. Year 10 students will be heading out of school to excursions for English, Commerce, PDHPE and Science over the next few weeks. A busy time indeed!



Year 10 Subject Selection Market



Any student or parent who has questions regarding subject selections can speak to the relevant year adviser, head teacher or deputy principal.

Year 8 students will be preparing for the selection of their Year 9 2019 subjects over the next few weeks. All Year 8 students will be issued with a course booklet that outlines individual course content, assessment requirements and fees before they have to narrow their selections down to the two most appropriate courses for them to study. During Week 7, 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:

- Thanks to all the parents who attended the Parent/Teacher afternoon during the last week of Term 2.  
It was well attended and the teachers valued the time spent discussing individual student progress with parents.
- 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 primary school students 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. A short video is available on the school website.

Ms Cross and Ms Andrews  
**Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal**

## **INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS**

### **Louise Perry Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)**



My name is Louise Perry, and I am from Canada.  
I am a professional home economist and a TAS teacher.

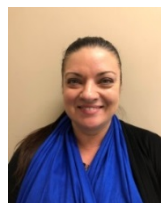
I currently hold a Bachelor Degree in Education majoring in Home Economics and a Diploma of Advanced Undergraduate Studies in Elementary Education from the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

I taught in Canada for 29 years and did two teacher exchanges in Sydney where I met my husband. We married in 2009 and I moved to Sydney in 2010.

Since moving to Sydney, I have been doing casual and long term relief teaching. From July 2012 to December 2013 I was at Auburn Girls High School and from January 2016 to June 2017 I was teaching at Concord High School.

The staff and students at Birrong Girls have made me feel very welcome and I look forward to working at the school.

### **Antonella Bertram Learning Support**

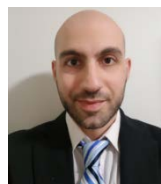


My name is Antonella Bertram and I am delighted to be joining the Learning Support faculty at Birrong Girls three days a week, Wednesday to Friday.

I have had wonderful opportunities working with young people in a number of schools both in Australia and abroad in both LOTE and English. Teaching is a very rewarding experience especially when helping young people to realise their full potential. It is certainly a privilege to be returning to Birrong Girls after completing my final teaching prac here 25 years ago! It is as dynamic and industrious now as it was then.

I would like to thank both staff and students for their very warm welcome and support in making my transition back into teaching a smooth one. See you about!

### **Stephen Michael Social Sciences**



My name is Stephen Michael. I am very excited about teaching at Birrong Girls High School having recently joined the Social Sciences faculty in the second half of 2018.

Following the completion of my Business degree in 2005, I entered the workforce for a number of years. Throughout my business career, I obtained a great deal of knowledge, skills and life experiences to positively influence the lives of students. I have built my career in a variety of roles and industries, mostly in small companies where I was not just the admin but also the crafty chef and sales guru.

I then completed a Masters of Teaching (Secondary) in 2015. I entered the teaching profession a little later in my career to inspire and motivate students so they can achieve their goals and ambitions.

I would like to thank all students and staff for welcoming me to Birrong Girls and look forward to an enjoyable year.



## SUBJECT FEES AND ANNUAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In public schools **annual general contributions** are not mandatory; however, without them we cannot continue to maintain the high standards that attract families to our school. Our annual general contribution (\$80 for Years 7-11 and \$90 for Year 12) is less than two dollars per week per student!

With these contributions we are able to provide student diaries, additional library and text books, computer paper, class worksheets, the school magazine, and additional support for students accessing the homework centre.

**Subject fees** are mandatory in all years. These fees pay for consumables and resources utilised during practical lessons. Families who are experiencing financial difficulties in the payment of subject fees may apply for Student Assistance.

In Years 11 and 12 the annual general contribution is used to subsidise a range of Year 11 and 12 experiences including the provision of student diaries and study skills sessions, the publication of the year book and gown hire for the Year 12 Graduation. The general contribution may also be used to support the Year 12 formal. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to support payment of the general contribution in the senior years to avoid the full cost of these services being passed on to families. Where families are experiencing financial hardship, parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact the principal to negotiate payment.

## WELFARE REPORT

### Vaccinations

Year 10 and Year 11 students will be able to receive a single dose of the Meningococcal vaccine on Friday 10 August 2018 as part of the NSW Health Services program. Students received the consent form and information kit during Week 1 this term. The consent form needs to be completed and signed by a parent or guardian in blue or black ink and returned to the respective Year Adviser by Friday 3 August.

The nurses will not provide the vaccination to students without the correctly completed consent form.

Year 7 students will receive the second dose of the HPV vaccine on Thursday 13 September. For students who were absent on the first date of vaccines the nurses will provide the missed vaccines.

Ms Salvagio  
**Head Teacher Female Students**

## PDHPE DANCE DISPLAY 2018

Congratulations to all students who were selected to perform in the PDHPE Dance Display on Thursday 5 July. The display showcased 20 fantastic dance acts by students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 who had all worked very hard during the term to produce some outstanding performances.

The display was performed in front of 350 extremely enthusiastic Year 4 and 5 students from our local primary schools in the morning and then again in the afternoon to our own school students from Years 7-10. Special congratulations to Year 9 students Nancy Au, Vivien Diep, Hailey Nguyen, Tristina Pham and Celina Tran whose dance "Boss" won the Best Senior Dance Group award and to 8S who won the Best Lower School Class Dance award with their rendition of "Hey Mickey". Also congratulations go to 8H who won the Encouragement award.

The dedication, talent, creativeness and inspiration of both the dancers and their PDHPE teachers ensured the Dance Display was a spectacular and extremely successful show. Well done to everyone involved!



Best Senior Dance Group award winners - Year 9 - "Boss"



Best Lower School Class Dance award winners - 8S - "Hey Mickey"

**By: PDHPE Faculty**

## REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY



Congratulations to four Birrong girls who attended the Regional Cross Country Championships on Thursday 14 June which was held at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Shelby Andres, Aabir Kolka, Talia Jbara and Eden Jamal ran a very strenuous and vigorous course. The girls demonstrated determination and persistence to complete the course. Well done to these competitors.

Ms Graham  
PDHPE Faculty

## SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



On 2 May, Ms Bolanca from the English faculty escorted a group of students from 7B, 8B and 9.1 on an enriching excursion to the Sydney Writers' Festival at the Carriageworks Theatre. Many award winning authors from around the world featured and shared their personal writing journeys. Although they were focusing on the art of writing, they shared their life experiences and invited us to recognise how these experiences made them the famous writers they had become today. Especially interesting was the idea that they were not born perfect writers, in fact the obstacles that they had encountered on their life's journey encouraged them to become the innovators of the engaging narratives that they have had published. The authors that presented

on the day were Jesse Andrews, Patrick Ness, Alice Taylor and Kirsty Eagar.

One of the authors that we found deeply engaging and entertaining was **Jesse Andrews**. He is an American novelist/screenwriter who first had his heart set on becoming a comedian. He did not find success easily, but he learned to transfer his comedic passion into his composing and presenting. He was indeed a very dynamic presenter! Jesse Andrews is the author of *Me and Earl* and *The Dying Girl*, *The Haters* (the series) and his most recent book was *Munmun*. Another fascinating author is the well-known Patrick Ness. He is a British-American author and journalist who started writing at a very young age. Initially, he did not feel a connection to prose fiction; however, sheer determination and tenacity drove him to become a powerful author. **Patrick Ness** has created texts such as *The Knife of Never Letting Go* and the profoundly moving *A Monster Calls*. **Alice Taylor**, an Irish best-selling novelist, used her challenging past to fuel her love of reading. It was reading and writing that coloured her traumatic childhood with happiness. She wrote *Tea and Talk* and *The Gift of a Garden*. **Kirsty Eagar** is also an engaging, dynamic young Australian who grew up on a Central Queensland cattle property. She is an energetic author of books such as *Saltwater Vampires* and *Summer Skin*. Kirsty also effectively connected with her audience by sharing very personal experiences to encourage us to never give up and to craft our art through sheer hard work.

The 2018 Sydney Writers' Festival was an inspiring experience and we would love to attend again next year. This type of experience honours writers as worthy celebrities and reminds us that reading and writing is a fulfilling, therapeutic and ultimately a rewarding life experience. We leave you with a motto that was the flavour of all of the writers on the day, *If you don't succeed on your first attempt, and even keep failing, never give up! Try, again and again.*

**By: Jamalia Nahlous, Dibe Chaker, Hajara Musthafa (7B)**



## BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Birthing Kits Assembly Workshop held on Saturday 23 June was a great success. Overall, 22 members of the Amnesty team, 14 school staff and their 9 children, 22 volunteers from Zonta Club of Sydney West and 3 ex-team members and siblings resulted in 70 dedicated people joining together in the biggest turnout so far. Birthing Kits Foundation Australia requested that we assemble 400 more kits resulting in an incredible 1400 birthing kits. This amazing achievement enables 1400 birthing kits, which include a plastic sheet to prevent a mother and baby coming into contact with the ground, soap, surgical gloves, a sterile scalpel blade, 3 strings for the umbilical cord and 5 clean gauze, to be sent to women in developing countries. Though basic, these materials make a real and substantial difference in providing clean and safe deliveries which significantly reduce the risk of infection, diseases and in some cases even death.



Assembly of birthing kits



Volunteers wore gloves to ensure kits were sterile

Through numerous fundraisers the school donated over \$2000, part of which was generously donated by the Year 10 Commerce students from the profits made from the Mother's Day stall in early Term 2. Zonta Club of Sydney West contributed \$1000 towards the total cost of the birthing kits and kindly provided morning tea at the event. The Amnesty team treated us to fresh fruit salad as a way to show their appreciation for our dedication, commitment and contribution to a worthy cause. In the past, kits have been sent to Sub-Saharan African countries and we look forward to knowing where the fourteen hundred kits end up this time round. We're lucky to be part of a school that encourages girls to help improve the status of women all around the world. We would like to thank Mr Sarna and Ms Zomaya for organising this rewarding and successful event that brought the community and volunteers together.

By: Daliya El Helou, Year 8

## LIBRARY NEWS



CBCA Book Week 2018 will be celebrated from 18 to 24 August.

This year our theme is "Find Your Treasure".

We are reflecting on the books that are special for us and the stories that bring a smile to our faces when we remember them.

Each reader values particular books for the special feelings they provide. What book is your treasure?

Visit the library and look through the treasure chest of this year's Short List for Book of the Year!

Our Book Week Competition has a treasure chest of prizes waiting to be won!

Students can enter by creating posters, performances or puppets to celebrate their favourite books.

There is also a category for a short piece of creative writing on "Find Your Treasure"

If you want to see the books that are in the running for CBCA Book of the Year go to the website for the Short List at <https://www.cbca.org.au/short-list-2018>

## Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to students in Year 7-9 and challenges them to read 20 books before Friday 31 August.

By now almost all of our Year 7, 8 and 9 have registered for the 2018 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) at:

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html>

We are always happy to help you find books for the PRC. Of course, you don't have to limit yourself to books in our library. The local public libraries also support the PRC. Do you live near Bankstown or Auburn? We can help you get membership to these libraries. They have many resources as well as PRC books. See us for membership forms.

In National Literacy and Numeracy Week we are going to survey the use of local libraries and particularly the use of ebooks as they become easier to download on computers, phones, ereaders and tablets.



**Make Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) inspiring by reading books that help you understand more about life and the world in which we live.**

Reading can influence and enhance your perspectives on life and its many challenges. Reading books can inspire us to deal with the hurdles that sometimes seem unfair and difficult to overcome. This is why **Drop Everything and Read** is such an important part of our school day.

Winter is the busiest season for the library. When it is cold and windy outside, the library is warm.

Mr Davidson  
**Teacher Librarian**

## CAPA REPORT

### Visual Arts

Upcoming Events in Visual Arts:

- Year 7 Incursion, Week 4 – 13/8/18  
Illustrator and Author, Gabriel Evans, will present an interactive and informative presentation, providing insight into the processes taken to illustrate children's books.
- CAPA Extravaganza, Week 6 – 30/8/18  
The CAPA Extravaganza is fast approaching and students from Year 7 to Year 12 are putting finishing touches on artworks for display on the walls of the art block. Any students who would like to perform a musical item at the Extravaganza are encouraged to see Mr Eveleigh or Ms Weir to audition by the end of Week 4. Parents, family and friends are invited to come along from 3-5pm on Thursday 30 August to view the exceptional student work on display and to listen to musical performances from talented Music students. Elective TAS students will be providing an array of scrumptious finger food for all to enjoy.  
We look forward to seeing you there.

### Music

On 22 June, Year 11 Music students had the privilege of attending the Sydney Opera House for a live concert. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a full size orchestra, concert band and choir playing a range of different styles from classical music to jazz as well as some familiar movie themes. Students were able to observe how different orchestral instruments are used in various styles of music and how they can be utilised in composition to convey different emotions to the listener. It was an experience thoroughly enjoyed by all students and inspires young women in their musical appreciation and pursuits.



Sydney Opera House concert

**By: CAPA Faculty**

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

**August:**

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 17<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Hospitality Work  
Placement

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup>

▪ Regional Athletics

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>

▪ Years 10 & 11 Vaccinations

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 31<sup>st</sup>

▪ Year 12 Trials

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 8 Field Day

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>

▪ P&C Meeting, Common Room,  
5pm

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup>

▪ CAPA Extravaganza, 3-5pm

**September:**

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to  
Friday, 14<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Exams

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 8 Jump Rope for Heart, p3&4

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 28<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Business Services  
Work Placement

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 7 Field Day

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 12 Graduation Day



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

Parents are invited to attend the  
**P & C MEETING**  
**on Wednesday 29 August 2018**  
**at 5pm in the Common Room**

**Think, Eat  
AND Move**

The **Think Eat And Move (TEAM) Program** is a FREE online healthy lifestyle program for 13 - 17 year olds, who are above a healthy weight.

Participants can access the TEAM Program on a mobile phone, tablet or PC. The program includes interactive activities, videos, free resources (including a wearable fitness tracker) and weekly coaching calls with a health professional.



To register or find out more:

**thinkeatandmove.org**

**or call 1300 899 736**

The program is free for young people living, studying and/or working in the Central and Eastern Sydney area.

Program funded by  
Central and Eastern  
Sydney PHN.

betterhealth  
company

**TEAM**  
THINK EAT AND MOVE



# PLAY TOUCH FOOTBALL SUNDAY MORNINGS

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CANTERBURY BULLDOGS  
JUNIOR COMPETITION



**BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5 - 17 YEARS**  
**REGISTRATIONS START FROM \$65 PER PLAYER\***  
\*DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN EACH TEAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT  
**[WWW.CANTERBURYTOUCH.COM.AU](http://WWW.CANTERBURYTOUCH.COM.AU)**



**[CANTERBURYTOUCH@YAHOO.COM.AU](mailto:CANTERBURYTOUCH@YAHOO.COM.AU)**  
**0408 163 462**



## Birrong Boys & Girls High School upgrade

### Project update

July 2018

The NSW Government's 2018/19 Budget includes \$6 billion over four years to deliver more than 170 new and upgraded schools.

#### Investing in our schools

This year's budget includes an additional \$160 million spend as part of the record \$747 million maintenance investment announced last year. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

#### Birrong Boys High School & Birrong Girls High School project

The NSW Government will provide an additional \$60 million over four years for planning new and upgraded schools. This year an upgrade to Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School will be prioritised for planning.

#### What's next?

Early internal investigations and analysis is now underway to:

- identify what school infrastructure solution is needed and why
- assess how much it will cost
- review funding options to deliver a proposed solution.

#### How can I get involved?

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students. This project is at the very early stages of planning and we will keep you informed as soon as we know more.

In the meantime, your feedback on this exciting project is important to us. For more information, questions or to make a comment please email us at [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)

#### Project status

- Planning
- Design
- In progress
- Complete

#### For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW

Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)

Phone: 1300 482 651

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