



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

HSC

Our Year 12 girls marked the end of their years at Birrong Girls at the joyous, and for some, emotional Graduation Ceremony held on Thursday 27 September. Wearing their formal graduation robes, the girls were presented with their final reports in front of an enthusiastic crowd of very supportive parents and guardians. The Year 12 girls commenced their HSC examinations on Thursday 18 October with their first English paper and the final examination is on Friday 9 November. I look forward to celebrating the end of high school with them at the Class of 2018 Formal on the evening of Thursday 29 November. On the previous day, Wednesday 28 November, they will return text books, sign-out and collect their school reference. We will all be relieved and delighted when the HSC results are published on Thursday 13 December.

I wish the 2018 Year 12 girls the best of luck in their examinations and joy and success in their future studies and career paths.



Year 12 Graduation

The results for Year 7 indicate that since their test in Year 5 they too have made progress specifically in the area of writing where they are above state average. Further improvement in the areas of numeracy and reading, as well as punctuation and grammar, must be a priority over the next 2 years. Teachers will use the NAPLAN data to inform their teaching practice to support those students not yet at national standards in these critical areas.

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

Congratulations go to...

- The newly elected **School Captain** for 2019, Sarah Al Helfy, **Vice Captain**, Fereshta Jamshidi and **Sports Captain**, Skye Casacchia and the 2019 **Prefects**: Farah Alameddine, Hala Alameddine, Amor Elsaid, Joanna Hutabarat, Asal Khalaf, Cindy Lam, Lara Matar, Jasmine Maxwell and Andrea Ung. These girls display excellent leadership qualities and are great role models for the rest of the student body.



2019 Prefect Body

NAPLAN results

Once again this year in May all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia were tested in a series of literacy and numeracy tests - NAPLAN. I am delighted to congratulate our Year 9 girls whose results, particularly in spelling and writing, were above state average. We will continue to work on improvements in numeracy as well as reading. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated and talented teachers in supporting the students resulting in the pleasing NAPLAN results.

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- The Year 11 Hospitality and Year 10 Food Tech students and their teachers who catered for the Year 12 Graduation morning tea on the last Thursday of Term 3. Their wonderful skills helped make the day a memorable and happy occasion for our departing Year 12 class and their parents.
- The Rotary Vocational Youth Award winners: Sajida Muhammadi (Retail Services) and Suyoung Lee (Hospitality) who received their awards at the presentation ceremony held at East Hills Girls High School on 11 September.
- Skye Casacchia, Year 11 (Sport), Sarah Al Helfy Year 11 (Community Involvement), Hanin Al Khaled Year 10 (Academic Achievement) and Fatima Khan Year 10 (Community Involvement) who are finalists for the Bankstown Youth Awards.

P&C meeting

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next meeting which will be held on Wednesday 28 November at 5pm in the Common Room. At this meeting we will be discussing 2018 school achievements and our continued path supporting the School Plan into 2019, so come along and have your say.

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

Best wishes.

Renee George
Acting Principal

INTRODUCING A NEW TEACHER



My name is Lisa Stewart and I am very excited to be joining the Social Sciences faculty as a full-time permanent member of staff.

Before becoming a teacher I was an accountant but I soon found that it wasn't a very fulfilling career for me as I always felt as though I could make more of a difference in people's lives by doing something more rewarding. It was then that I decided to pursue a career in teaching and I haven't looked back!

Some of you may remember my face and that is because I worked at Birrong Girls earlier this year in Terms 1 and 2. I left at the start of Term 3 to teach at a co-educational school in the south west

Sydney region. Although I found it to be a good experience, I must admit that I missed all of the staff and the wonderful students here at Birrong Girls!

I am really excited to be back and look forward to the future at Birrong Girls High School.

REPORT FROM THE RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

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

The online Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent Survey was available for all parents and carers from Monday 15 - Friday 26 October. Many thanks to those people who responded, carers and community members, providing vital feedback that will help us to strengthen the important relationship between parents and our school.

The school's website is updated regularly with videos and photographs showing the range of educational experiences in which our students participate. The calendar now includes the full range of activities on our school schedule. We urge you to visit the site often to learn more about what happens in our learning environments.

We wish all the 2018 Year 12 students the very best as they embark on their HSC examinations. These examinations bring to a close their secondary schooling and prepare them for continued success in future endeavours.

Our Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary Year examinations and they have already begun their preparation for the HSC in 2019. Students have received their reports and should spend some time reflecting on their performance and are encouraged to seek assistance from their teachers to identify how they could achieve improvement. The Year 12 Assessment Handbook has been distributed and students are encouraged to plan their term carefully, taking note of when assessment tasks are due and ensuring that they are well organised to complete all required work.

Students are reminded to adhere to school procedures for assessment tasks and examinations which are explained clearly in the handbook. Nightly study habits and a clear focus on completing work to develop deep understanding are essential in achieving the best possible future outcomes. It is also important that students achieve a balance between family, study and extra-curricular activities. Students should get the right amount of sleep and rest, as this often impacts on the effectiveness of their study routines. If students are experiencing difficulty in

maintaining a balance, or need assistance with setting goals, we encourage them to be proactive and seek help from Ms Zomaya, Ms Waltho, Ms Salvagio or Ms Tselepi.

Throughout Term 4 Year 10 students are expected to continue working diligently, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure they achieve all course outcomes. Students should also be preparing for their Year 10 formal exams which will be held during Week 5. All Year 10 students have now chosen their preliminary HSC subjects for Year 11. Some students will need to reflect on their selections and consider if their choices are best suited to their capabilities and future career aspirations. It is important that students listen to advice and make decisions which will allow them to achieve to the best of their ability. For some students, the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be a more appealing and appropriate pathway. Parents of Year 10 students considering an alternate pathway are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success post Year 10 with Ms Shinas, the school's Transition Teacher or Ms Wailes, the Careers Adviser.

Year 9 students have recently received their NAPLAN results. These results allow parents to reflect on some areas of their daughter's progress in literacy and numeracy and allow teachers to plan to further develop literacy and numeracy skills through targeted teaching practices. There is no longer a requirement to achieve a Band 8 in Year 9 NAPLAN as was the case last year. However, students in NSW have to meet minimum standards of literacy and numeracy to attain a Higher School Certificate from 2020 through online tests in either Year 10, 11 or 12.

NAPLAN was the first of a number of opportunities these students have to demonstrate a minimum standard of reading, writing and numeracy to receive the HSC in 2020. Some of our students did achieve the minimum standard of Band 8 but it is expected that most students across the state will demonstrate the HSC minimum standard by passing new, short online reading, writing and numeracy tests in Year 10, 11 or 12.

There are a number of excursions planned for our Year 9 students this term including the annual Science trip to Questacon in Canberra and the Luna Park Mathematics excursion. Food Technology, Visual Arts, Commerce, STEM and Japanese students will also travel to venues outside the school to experience real-life opportunities that enhance their classroom learning.



All Year 8 students have selected their Year 9 elective subjects for 2019. These electives will continue to be studied in Year 10 2020. All students will be involved in the Year 8 VAILD (Science) online testing which is scheduled in Week 3.

Year 7 students also recently received their NAPLAN results. To improve, it is vital that parents provide an environment that encourages regular reading which will assist students to improve their comprehension as well as vocabulary.

Later in the term, Year 7 students will attend the annual swim school where they will be instructed by qualified Austswim instructors supported by our PDHPE teachers.



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

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

Ad Astra! Aim for your very best this term!

Ms Andrews and Mr Saule
Relieving Deputy Principals

CAREERS NEWS

Year 10

A reminder to students and parents that Work Experience begins Week 8, Monday 3 December to Friday 7 December. Student placement records are now overdue and need to be completed and returned to the careers office ASAP. Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Year 11

The Tuesday afternoon careers sessions are underway and students have started learning about post-school options/pathways, the UAC application process, scholarships, bonus points and much more. Now that students' flexible study timetables have begun, Year 11 are encouraged to book in an appointment to start discussing and researching their future career plans.

Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas
Careers Advisers

LIBRARY NEWS



On Tuesday 16 October Mr Paul Macdonald of the Children's Bookshop visited Birrongo Girls High School to speak at the assembly about Reading for Success, Reading for Happiness, and Reading for Pleasure. He told me he loves our school, in particular because he sees in us a school that is working hard to build a reading culture. It is always a pleasure to hear Mr Macdonald discuss books and reading, not because he is an expert or has read a lot of books, what makes him really important to me is his enthusiasm. He is part of our community of readers.

Summarising his presentation he noted "Increasingly, new research across many countries is showing that the best predictor of future education achievement and life success is reading ability - or, more significantly, being an engaged reader." He emphasised the importance of a balanced reading life which includes picture books, classics, and easy/funny reads. There are many popular series in genres of fantasy, science fiction and dystopia which have become best sellers and have huge fan clubs and fan fiction blogs dedicated to their characters and authors.

Mr Macdonald left many recommended books for the library and they will be available for borrowing in November. See me if you want to put any of the titles on reserve.

Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

YEAR 10 ROAD TRAUMA FORUM



'Extremely powerful and emotion provoking. I think every teenager needs to witness something like that'.

Year 10 attended the bstreetsmart Road Trauma Forum to support their Term 3 unit of work 'Consequences'. The purpose of bstreetsmart is to reduce the fatality and injury rates of young people by promoting safe behaviour as drivers, riders and passengers. Students experienced real-life situations and learnt about the impact of dangerous/distracted driving and the consequences for those directly and indirectly involved in a crash.

The students experienced a motor vehicle crash scenario where they followed the journey of 3 young people and a motorcyclist. They witnessed the interaction of rescue services at a crash scene and the potential consequences of being involved in a crash. The scenario included an insight into the patient's journey through the hospital from the emergency department to rehabilitation.

Students were also given the opportunity to explore various interactive displays and gather first-hand information from emergency services, driving instructors and Transport for NSW.

Overall, bstreetsmart was an excellent eye-opener for our students and a great introduction to becoming safe road users.

Ms Rixon
PDHPE Faculty

WELFARE MATTERS

Vaccinations

Year 7 students who were absent on a vaccination date will have the vaccination catch-up in Term 1 next year.

Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Vanessa Tran of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for June 2018. She has demonstrated strong citizenship and commitment to the school community. Her outstanding 100% attendance is

highly commendable and she is an excellent role model for her peers. Vanessa has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs and teams. She has demonstrated leadership and initiative as a member of the SRC and of the Amnesty International Team, participating in various fundraising events and the Zonta birthing kits assembly project. Vanessa has been a supportive and encouraging Peer Reading Tutor, assisting Year 7 students with their literacy development. She has also dedicated time and effort to extra-curricular programs such as the UTS STEM program, Youth Week events and volunteering at school functions. Her strong work ethics and commitment have been acknowledged being selected as the winner of the 2018 VET Award for Retail Services. Out of school, Vanessa likes to spend her free time learning computer coding basics, sewing and drawing. She has also volunteered for the Salvation Army's Red Shield doorknock appeal and for the Bankstown Youth Festival.



Congratulations to Andrea Ung of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for July 2018. She has demonstrated a mature and dedicated approach to her studies thus attaining commendable academic

results. Her outstanding 100% attendance is highly commendable and she is an excellent role model for her peers. Andrea has carried out valuable school service through her active involvement and dedication in the school Media Team, through her use of technology and excellent writing skills. As a Peer Reading Tutor, she has encouraged and assisted Year 7 students to improve their reading and comprehension skills. As a Peer Support leader she supported Year 7 students in their transition to high school. She has actively participated in various events and programs including the UTS STEM program and was a leader of the Anime Club. Andrea shows responsible citizenship through her efforts and

dedication to fundraising and volunteering her time at various school events.



Congratulations to Fereshta Jamshidi of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for August 2018. She has demonstrated dedication, leadership and citizenship to the school community. She has a positive

attitude toward all aspects of her schooling and is an excellent role model for her peers. Fereshta has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs and teams. She has demonstrated responsibility and dedication as an SRC member and through her participation in the ASPIRE, the ABCN Focus, the UTS Stem programs and UTS summer school. She shows responsible citizenship through her efforts and dedication to fundraising and volunteering at school events such as parent evenings and the Zonta birthing kit assembly project. Fereshta was successful in attaining the Harding Miller Foundation scholarship which has greatly supported her education. She is working part-time at Kmart gaining valuable work related skills.



Congratulations to Sarah Al Helfy of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for September 2018. She has demonstrated outstanding dedication, commitment and citizenship to the school community. Sarah is a

positive role model for her peers through her mature and diligent manner and strong leadership. Sarah has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various school teams and events. She has been a supportive and motivated Peer Support Leader and Peer Reading Tutor to Year 7 students and as a Library Monitor. She has been an enthusiastic, active and hardworking member of many teams such as, the SRC, Amnesty International, Debating and the Media teams. Sarah has volunteered her time to various school events such as Parent/Teacher evenings, HSC Drama showcase and the Zonta birthing kits assembly. She has positively and proudly represented the school at STEM and ASPIRE programs, the ABCN Focus Leadership program and was selected as the school ambassador for the Global Dignity Day at Parliament House. Having demonstrated strong leadership and dedication to the school community Sarah was successfully elected as the School Captain for 2019. Outside of school, Sarah has demonstrated strong and active citizenship through her participation on the Bankstown Youth Committee planning programs for the youth and as a member of the Advocate for Children and Young People

(ACYP) ensuring the voices of youth are being heard by government bodies. She has also volunteered at the Bankstown Youth Festival and the Campsie Food Festival.

Ms Salvagio

Head Teacher Female Students

CAPA REPORT

Visual Arts

At the parent assembly last term, one student from each year group was recognised and awarded for their outstanding artwork displayed at the CAPA Extravaganza. Everyone who attends the CAPA Extravaganza has the opportunity to vote for their favourite artwork which is known as 'The People's Choice' Award. This year we added a new category, the 'Packer's Prize' which was awarded by Mr Sinden. Award winners were presented with medals and an art supply pack kindly donated by S&S Wholesale.

Congratulations to the following students:

People's Choice Award: Rukaya Ahmed

Year 7: Heba Al Hiriz

Year 8: Grace Kang

Year 9: Lina Al-Far

Year 10: Ruqaya El Bikai

Year 11: Jathusika Athawan

Year 12: Alissa Samsi

Year 9 PDM: Thuvaraka Athawan

Year 12 PDM: Kawssar Khaled

Packer's Prize: Olivia Zhen, Year 9



Ruqaya of Year 10 with her artwork

Music

Last term was a busy time for our extra-curricular music groups, with some wonderful performances by the BGHS Pop Band, BGHS Vocal Group and the outgoing Year 12 Music Ensemble.

The BGHS Pop Band performed polished covers of the songs 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran and 'Girls like You' by Maroon 5 at the parent assembly. These songs 'went down like a treat', with both

parents and students singing and clapping along with the performances.

The BGHS Vocal group have been busy performing the School Song and the National Anthem at both the parent assembly and the Year 12 Graduation. The students in this group set a great example of how the School Song and National Anthem should be sung.

With a lot a hard work and rehearsals at lunch time, the Year 12 Music Ensemble (with help from Mr Eveleigh) performed a memorable 'Graduation Mash-up' which brought a few tears to the eyes of the outgoing Year 12 cohort. It was a great performance that really captured the moment.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the students in these extra-curricular music groups who give up their lunch-times to come and rehearse. The girls work really hard to deliver wonderful performances and we look forward to rehearsing with them in Term 4 and seeing what they can deliver towards the end of the year and beyond.

By: CAPA Faculty

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST U15 KNOCKOUT NETBALL COMPETITION

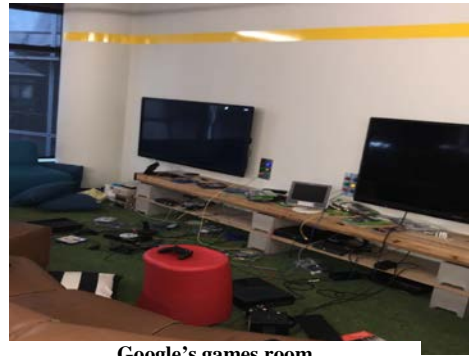


Well done to all students who represented the U15 school netball team. The team played very well at the South West Sydney U15 netball knockout gala day. They displayed excellent teamwork and really improved their play during the course of the day. Great work girls! Well done also to Anaseini (Year 10) who helped coach the girls and umpired the team on the day.

Ms Wessels

PDHPE Faculty

GOOGLE EXCURSION



Google's games room

On 23 August two Year 10 Commerce classes got the opportunity to attend a tour of Google's headquarters in the city for an excursion. Firstly, students and teachers met at Birrong train station. We then made our way to Central and then took the light rail to The Star. When we arrived at Google's headquarters we were all welcomed with presentations from the employees and freebies. The presentations were very informative and elaborated on the wide variety of IT jobs available at Google. The panel members described their experiences and achievements. We were given an opportunity to ask them questions.



Google's lift foyer designed as a Sydney train



We then toured the building, this is when we experienced the brilliant atmosphere and welcoming people working at Google. Their unique reception with the tire swing and

fernerly was really beautiful. Google really have a sublime sense of play, and an employee here has all one could hope for in a workspace that is actually fun. We got a sense of such a happy and collaborative space. Each room, with their own special names, is designed with bright colours and for people to feel comfortable with sharing ideas. With a variety of recreational rooms such as a theatre, VR room and a gaming area, students had a great time. With the Hogwarts inspired doors and corridors, colours and features of this place, it cannot be beat. All the study spaces were unique and interesting with their own atmosphere.



Food was available on every level and it turns out they were all free for employees, making it much more enticing. The day at Google headquarters was truly an amazing experience thanks to the employees/interns and our

organised teachers. We would love to go back there again.

By: Erika Vorn and Alice Cai, Year 10 Commerce



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
on **Wednesday 28 November 2018**
at 5pm in the **Common Room**

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

November:

Monday, 5th to
Friday, 16th

▪ Year 11/12 Hospitality
Workplacement

Monday, 12th to
Wednesday, 14th

▪ Year 10 Yearly Exams

Friday, 23rd

▪ Year 11 Life Ready Program

Wednesday, 28th

▪ Year 12 sign-out, 8:30am –
10:30am only
▪ P&C Meeting, Common
Room, 5pm

Thursday, 29th

▪ Year 12 Formal