



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Extravaganza

Exceptional art including pottery, portraits and paintings, lively musical performances and high quality catering made this year's CAPA Extravaganza a memorable one. The showcase of student talent was held in our Visual Arts centre on Thursday 30 August where it was a pleasure to view so many great art works on display from students in all year groups while our talented singers and musicians entertained parents, staff and students. Special thanks to Ms Winchcombe and the CAPA team and to Mr DaCunha, the TAS staff, the Year 11 Hospitality class and the Year 10 Food Technology class for their contribution to the success of this year's extravaganza.

It was a pleasure to have Mr Andrew Fielding, Director, Educational Leadership of the Chullora Principals Network in attendance to officially open the CAPA Extravaganza. During his visit he was very impressed by the musical items and requested a particular piece of art to be taken and placed on display in his office. We are delighted to say Year 10 Batool Al Hamdani's art work will be on display at the Department of Education's Strathfield office. Congratulations Batool.



Batool with her art work

Book Week

Book Week was celebrated in the library with posters, performances and competitions, all activities focusing on this year's Book Week theme 'Find your treasure'. Reading gives us an insight into people, their thoughts and feelings and the ways they respond to different situations. Reading takes us places we've never been

before, providing an insight into different countries and different cultures. Reading allows us to experience events vicariously, that is, through someone else, and in this way gives us a better understanding of human nature and most importantly empathy with others. Develop a passion for books and reading and your world too will be enlightened!

Year 12 Graduation

Parents of Year 12 are invited to join us as we farewell the Year 12 class of 2018 at their Graduation Ceremony on the second last day of this term, Thursday 27 September. Year 12 may your HSC results reflect your hard work and dedicated efforts, and may you experience great happiness and fulfilment in your future studies, careers and personal lives.

Congratulations to:

- Chau Vo (Hospitality), Zaynab Abdullah (Retail Services) and Vanessa Tran (Retail Services) who were recognised for their skills at the Vocational Education & Training Awards evening on Monday 20 August at Bankstown Sports Club.



VET Award recipients

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- Kathleen Logie for her nomination for a Vocational Education & Training Award in Hospitality.
- Hayat Alameddine, Sarah Al Helfy, Jasmine Maxwell and Skye Casacchiha of Year 11 who represented Birrong Girls registering and welcoming the guests attending the Vocational Education & Training Awards.



Students who assisted at the VET Awards

- Year 8 who skipped their way to good health and raised valuable funds for the Heart Foundation through their involvement in Jump Rope for Heart.

Thank You to:

- Mr Mohan who has been a dedicated teacher at Birrong Girls High School since 2013. We wish you all the very best as you start a new phase to your teaching career at your new school.
- To all the parents who attended the P&C meeting held in the Common Room on Wednesday 29 August. Your attendance at the meeting and input into school processes is highly valued by all.



P&C meeting attendees

Coming Events

- We hope to see more parents attend the Parent Assembly on Tuesday 18 September.
- Year 7 Field Day is scheduled for Wednesday 19 September.

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.

Renee George
Acting Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

The online Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent Survey will be open from Monday 22 October until Friday 26 October. This is **Week 2 of Term 4**.

The parent survey helps to strengthen the important relationship between parents and our school. Results of the survey will help us understand parents' and carers' views on their child's experience at school including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour. It also aims to give us an understanding of parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their child's learning.

The survey can be completed online on a computer, a smartphone or a tablet or you can come into the school between 2pm and 3:30pm, Monday 22 October until Friday 26 October to use our school computers. Your valuable feedback will help our school plan improvements.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. We will be sure to send additional reminders as the survey window approaches.

Year 12 students have now completed their trial examinations. In a few weeks we will be saying our farewells and wishing them all the best for their Higher School Certificate examinations. All Year 12 students should continue working through the October school holidays in preparation for the HSC. Sustained dedication, time and effort towards examination preparation will lead to success. We look forward to seeing all the Year 12 parents at the Year 12 Graduation, which is a time for students, parents and staff to reflect upon the last six years of Year 12's experiences at Birrong Girls High School. In that time Year 12 students have grown in maturity and expanded their knowledge of the world and hopefully themselves. We congratulate Year 12, the Class of 2018, on their achievements so far.

Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary HSC final examinations. In Term 4 they will officially begin their HSC course of study. All Year 11 students need to ensure they understand the importance of this year and set up

effective study habits that will ensure their success leading to their HSC examinations in 2018. Year 11 students have also completed the prefect selection process. We congratulate all elected prefects who will be inducted at the Year 12 Graduation.

Year 10 students have completed their Year 11 subject selection process for 2019. They have also enjoyed the continued opportunities provided by their teachers that complement their classroom based learning. In Week 6, students attended a road safety forum which provided a graphic insight to the dangers of using mobile phones while driving; they also enjoyed a commerce excursion to the Google Sydney office; an English excursion to the Sydney Opera House to see Romeo and Juliet; and a science excursion to ANSTO. In Week 7 they will participate in the Year 10 VALID test.

For the remainder of the school year, 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 examinations which will be held mid Term 4.

Many **Year 9** students are consolidating their learning by being involved in a range of activities including the Year 8 Jump Rope for Heart skip-a-thon; the CAPA Extravaganza; our Police Youth Liaison talks; Amnesty Team activities, and the ABCN Team Program for leadership.

Year 8 students have made their choices for next year's Year 9 electives that will carry on into Year 10. The Year 8 Jump Rope for Heart skip-a-thon was a very successful event run by Year 9 PASS students and the PDHPE staff. Congratulations to all the Year 8 students who took part in raising valuable funds for research and treatment of heart disease. Year 8 Field Day was a great success that saw our girls compete against 3 other girls' schools in our zone in their chosen sport. Our students studying Japanese enjoyed a day out at the Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School and some students have also been participating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities.

Year 7 students participated in a Visual Arts incursion with children's book illustrator, Gabrielle Evans, and selected students are engaged in reading in the Premier's Reading Challenge and working towards voting for their favourite books for the KOALA Children's literature awards. Year 7 are also participating in the Digital Thumbprint program which teaches students about protecting personal information, behaving responsibly and staying safe online.

Ms Cross and Mrs Andrews
Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The text messaging system is a very valuable tool in tracking student attendance. If your daughter has been late to or absent from school, you would have received a text message from the school that asks you for a reply text. It is very important that you make contact with the school at your earliest convenience via text reply or phone call so your daughter's school records can be updated to justify her absence.

The effectiveness of the text messaging system in ensuring the safety of your daughter relies on you responding to the text by explaining the nature of your daughter's absence, her name and roll call class.

If you have any concerns about the text message system please contact the school.

Any parents and students that intend on taking leave to travel for holidays must contact the school office prior to departing and document the length of time they will be away.

Over the year many families have changed their personal and contact details because they have moved house, changed telephone companies or obtained a new mobile phone number. It is very important that you inform the school immediately of any changes you make. There have been several incidents at school where the school has needed to contact parents in an emergency and have not had the most up to date contact numbers.

If you change your mobile phone details it is very important that you inform the school immediately.

Early Leaver Passes – Parents who wish their daughters to leave school early for medical appointments must provide a written note including contact details, for their daughter to bring to school. This note must be presented to the Head Teacher Administration **before 8:20 AM** on the day the student needs to leave early. After this time, parents will be required to come to the school and sign their daughters out at the front office. **Students will be required to obtain and submit a medical certificate to the Reception office on the next day they return to school, in order for the partial absence to be justified on the roll system.**

Lateness to School

A reminder that **lessons begin at 8:30 AM** at Birrong Girls High School. It is important to note that when a student is late to school, this not only affects the learning of the student that is late, but also the learning of every student in the class, as the lesson must be interrupted so the teacher can address the issue. Students that are persistently

late to school will have consequences given to them.

Skoolbag App

We now have our own Skoolbag App to help us communicate more effectively with our school community. Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students free of charge. To install the free Birrong Girls High Skoolbag App search for our school name on either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Clark

Head Teacher Administration

WELFARE MATTERS

Vaccinations

The vaccination program for Year 7 will be completed on Thursday 13 September when students will receive the second dose of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine.

On Monday 17 September we will have a vaccination catch-up for students in Years 10 and 11 who missed out on the Meningococcal vaccine on 10 August 2018.



Digital Thumbprint Workshop

Year 7 and Year 10 students are participating in a workshop focusing on cyber safety, understanding social media platforms and the consequences of technology misuse. It aims at enabling students to be

better digital citizens.



Ms Salvagio

Head Teacher Female Students

CAREERS NEWS

Year 7 ASPIRE

60 of our Year 7 students participated in ASPIRE workshops earlier this term. ASPIRE is a partner program we have with the University of NSW that enables our students to learn about university, courses and careers. These workshops were fantastic and all students were engaged and gained valuable knowledge. These Year 7 students will have the opportunity to continue in this program over the next few years.

Year 10

The second block of Work Experience will be here before we know it. Students have received their Student Placement Records and should be contacting workplaces to organise their placement. Work Experience will be in Term 4, Week 8, starting on Monday 3 December until Friday 7 December. This is the last opportunity students will have to gain valuable experience, support career decision making and establish connections with the community. Students are encouraged to experience a different industry and workplace from their first placement to expand their knowledge and learning. If parents/carers have any questions about this program please call the school. Completed Student Placement Records are due back to the Careers Office by the end of Week 2 next term.

Year 12



This is a busy time for Year 12 as they are coming to the end of their studies and making

decisions about their future careers. 65 Year 12 students attended the UAC session run by Ms Wailes which goes to show the preparation and serious attitude our girls have towards their futures. If students or parents/carers have any questions in regards to post-school transition and career options, please don't hesitate to call the school or book an appointment. Students are reminded to make sure applications are completed by the deadlines.

UAC Applications – on time applications close 28 September.

SRS – applications close 28 September.

Equity Scholarships – applications close 28 September.

EAS – early bird applications close 28 September; final closing date is 30 November.

Visit www.uac.edu.au for all information.

Ms Wailes and Ms Shinas

Careers Advisers

BIRRONG BUILDS A BRIDGE



A group of three Year 9 students (Thuvaraka Athawan, Vivien Diep and Nancy Au) were selected to represent the school at the Aurecon bridge building competition at the Art Gallery of NSW on 7 August 2018. The event was part of Engineering Week.

The challenge involved forming a team and using the provided kit (which included 16 balsa wood sticks, string and glue) to build the strongest possible bridge. To achieve success they had to use these limited materials wisely. The girls researched different types of bridges on the internet and practised their building skills before settling a design. The design was inspired by the Golden Bridge in Da Nang, Vietnam and relied on a sleek structure to minimise its visual impact.

After checking in, snapping a few pictures and weighing the bridge, the girls engaged in a virtual reality activity where they drove a train over an imaginary bridge and designed a virtual bridge using some simulation software. Throughout the day, several Aurecon employees talked to the students about their careers and how there were many paths to follow in moving into the engineering field. Girls were asked questions about the construction and how they achieved the shape of the bridge.

The order of testing was determined by ballot. The test engineers applied the load to the span of the bridge. At 15kg the bridge failed. We were happy with the result but felt the positioning of the load had an impact. A respectable result considering many bridges failed at less than 10kg.

Despite not achieving outright victory, we were pleased with the judge's comments. They appreciated the creativity of the construction and the girls ability to explain the construction and reasoning behind their choices.

Mr Saule
Head Teacher Science

VISITING SCIENTIST COMES TO BIRRONG

As a member of the Science in Schools program, Birrong Girls welcomed our partnered scientist, Dr Poonam Mugdil, a research officer at the School of Medicine from the University of Western Sydney on Monday 13 August.

Dr Poonam spoke to Year 11 science students about her work in researching the tears of children and how the antibacterial properties of eyes are providing scientists with better understanding of dry eye (a condition which is becoming more common in western society). Dr Poonam talked about the causes of eye problems and was able to explain how these issues are related to the structure of the eye. She then suggested that spending more time outside in the sun would assist in delaying the onset of degenerative eye problems and lead to better overall eye health.

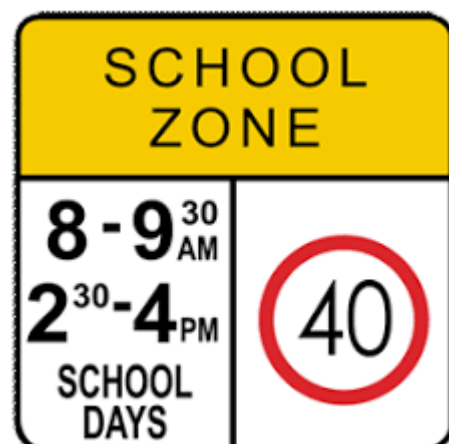
Girls were encouraged to ask questions, with many seeking better understanding of the risks of infection when using eye makeup. Dr Poonam advised the students to be careful as there had been reports of serious infections where old makeup had been used and people had shared mascara.



Students left the presentation with a better understanding of the structure of the eye, possible problems and some research which is currently being conducted.

Mr Saule
Head Teacher Science

Parents are reminded to slow down in school zones.



LEGACY SPEECH COMPETITION

Sarah Steel and Talia Jbara (Year 9), who were Henrietta Wooster winners this year, participated in the finals of the Legacy Speech Competition held at Hurlstone Agricultural High School on 10 August.

They performed creditably among some fierce competition and though they didn't advance to the next round they benefited from the experience.



Sarah being presented with her award



Talia being presented with her award

Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week was held from 18 to 24 August. This year the theme was "Find your treasure." The entries for the competitions showed that many students have truly found treasure. Ms George and Mrs Andrews came to our Presentation Day to announce the winners for the Posters and Books Reviews.

The Premier's Reading Challenge for 2018 has finished. Two Magic Fudge parties were held and our dedicated readers identified the books that captured their imaginations. 39 students completed the challenge and will be presented with their certificates next term.

Hot Box is booming! So far over 80 students have come to the library for Achievement Awards and raffle tickets. The raffle draw for book vouchers and chocolate cupcakes will be held on 25 September.

The library workshops that aim to develop STEM skills are increasingly busy. During lunchtimes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, students have the opportunity to practise at a variety of hands on activities from knitting, crocheting, Lego, Minecraft and Maths games.



Book Week winners with Mrs Andrews and Ms George



Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

YEAR 8G JAPANESE VISIT TO THE JAPANESE TANKEN CENTRE

Recently, the Year 8G Japanese language class visited the Japanese language Centre which is situated on the grounds of Kirrawee High School. We were very excited as we left the school and we started our journey by catching a number of trains.

When we arrived at the language centre, we were warmly greeted with an “Ohayoo gozaimasu” by our two *sensei* (teachers) for the day. From the moment we entered the genkan (entrance), it felt like we had entered a Japanese house in Japan and we were spoken to entirely in Japanese! We took off our shoes at the genkan and put on a pair of *surippa* (slippers). We were then given our name tags with our names written in Japanese and placed in four teams. After that, we were shown to a Japanese style room where we kneeled on cushions and sat on Japanese style mats called *tatami*. The *sensei* then got each team up and interviewed us all in Japanese. Whilst we were nervous, it was also really good to be able to understand and answer questions about ourselves in Japanese!

After our nervous interviews, the teams started their “friendly” competition to see who could gain the most points through a series of fun games. The first game was a Japanese dress up competition, followed by twister in Japanese as well as a Japanese food relay. We were then given the opportunity to learn how to make a Japanese snack called Onigiri. We made the delicious Onigiri with rice, tuna and nori (seaweed). We had a lot of fun trying to make them into the perfect triangular prism and really enjoyed eating them too!



Making yummy Onigiri!

After making the Onigiri, we enjoyed a Japanese style lunch called an Obento in the beautiful Japanese garden. The Japanese garden was very zen (peaceful) and relaxing. We all got to try really yummy foods such as sushi, tempura, chicken katsu as well as one of the staples of all Japanese meals - gohan (rice)! We ate our Obento using ohashi (chopsticks) and tried to look as skilful as we could with various degrees of success! Ms Zoras had taught us how to use them in class and we tried to remember all the correct rules for using chopsticks.



Enjoying our Obento in the Japanese garden



Enjoying a Japanese style heater - kotatsu!

We then finished our day with a trivia game as well as a game that involved a Japanese toy called a Kendama. Everyone really enjoyed these games as well as the chance to score points for our teams so that one team could be crowned the “winning” team for the day.

Before we knew it, it was sadly time to leave. 8G had a fun and memorable day. We got to practise our Japanese and learnt many new and interesting things about Japan. Thank you to Ms Zoras for organising the excursion as well as our Japanese *sensei* at the language centre - Arigatoo!

By: 8G Japanese student

YEAR 8 FIELD DAY

Year 8 attended field day, successfully competing against 3 other girls' schools in our zone in their chosen sport. The annual gala day is about having a go, meeting new people and working as a team. Year 10 PASS students were outstanding in assisting with the coaching of the Year 8 teams. Sports included netball, newcombe ball, soccer, wood cricket and basketball.



By: PDHPE Faculty

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR For your diary / noticeboard

September:

Monday, 10 th to Friday, 14 th	▪ Year 11 Exams (continued)
Thursday, 13 th	▪ Year 7 Vaccinations
Monday, 17 th	▪ Years 10 & 11 Meningococcal vaccine catch-up
Monday, 17 th to Friday, 28 th	▪ Year 11 Business Services Work Placement
Wednesday, 19 th	▪ Year 7 Field Day ▪ Year 8 Maths Activities Day
Thursday, 27 th	▪ Year 12 Graduation Day
Friday, 28 th	▪ Last day of Term 3

Enjoy the School Holidays!

October:

Monday, 15 th	▪ First day of Term 4 for all students and staff
Thursday, 18 th	▪ HSC commences

CAPA REPORT



Congratulations to all the students whose art works were selected for display and also those whose musical auditions were successful for performances in the Creative and Performing Arts Extravaganza. Our annual Extravaganza this year was held on Thursday 30 August in the Ross McBride Art Centre and it was an exciting afternoon attended by approximately 300 people including students, staff, family and friends. The attendees viewed the high standard of work across both the visual art and music subject areas and were also treated to delicious food, catered for by the TAS faculty along with hospitality and food technology students.



The Extravaganza showcased the immense talent of students from Year 7 through to Year 12 with over 500 works on display. It was also an opportunity to see the finalised Year 12 Bodies of Work before they are formally submitted for HSC marking. The Extravaganza showcased our students' musical talent for a full two hours of back to back music performances. This involved both solo and group performances across a variety of genres and instruments. The great diversity of performances proved to be highly entertaining and engaging for the audience. Thank you to all the staff who supported this showcase and congratulations to all the students for contributing to this highly successful community event. Stay tuned for the announcement of the People's Choice Award and the winners for each of the year groups. These students will be awarded a medal and an art pack at the next parent assembly in Week 9.

By: CAPA Faculty