

BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



It is with excitement and pride that I address you as the newly appointed Principal of Birrong Girls High School. I pay tribute to Ms Margaret Fletcher, the school's former Principal and the incredible legacy that represents her passion

and commitment to girls' education throughout the course of her career. It is an honour to follow in her footsteps. I also acknowledge Ms George for relieving as Principal since Ms Fletcher's retirement and for Ms Andrews and Mr Saule for supporting as relieving Deputy Principals. The school has been in great hands.

On behalf of our staff, I extend the warmest of welcomes to all students and their families. Whether you are new, or a longstanding member of our community, we look forward to working in close partnership with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child. We see this as the common purpose that school and families share. This is best achieved by supporting school rules, the values of public education and maintaining high levels of respectful communication with members of our school community. The school offers a wealth of resources that are available to further advantage our students academically and in their wellbeing. We encourage students to participate actively, seek assistance from their teachers and speak with their year advisers whenever there is need. The Learning Support and Wellbeing teams, including our Counsellors are also vital members of the supports and resources that are available to students. Our Homework Centre will be in operation in the library on Monday to Thursday afternoons. Signed permission notes are required to attend.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible staff that we are so fortunate to have delivering quality teaching and learning environment for our student community. Our 2018 HSC results sustained our reputation as a high performing school, landing above state average in courses across almost every Key Learning Area. Eight of our students achieved ATARs over 90. We have outperformed similar school groups and gained significant media attention. Amidst all these uplifting achievements, we are secure in the knowledge that every graduating student in the class of 2018

enters the next phase of their lives with the skills, tools and empowering capacity to succeed personally and professionally. Our High Achiever's Assembly, followed by the High Achiever's morning tea held on Tuesday 5 February, was in honour of our former Year 12 student achievements and we enjoyed celebrating them.

In the first week of school, I addressed each year group from 7-12 reminding them of their core focus and responsibilities. Our current Year 12 girls have three terms before they graduate and this is the time to make a deeper and more consistent commitment to working productively and pushing to achieve their best. Year 11 have been reminded that the HSC is a two-year course and that the final stage of their secondary schooling is demanding and requires daily commitment from now. Years 9 and 10 were encouraged to focus on skill development and cohesive and positive relationships amongst themselves. Year 7 and 8 were advised to ensure they were organised and communicate openly with their teachers to ensure they remained on track. All students were reminded of our school rules and expectations relating to their conduct as representatives of Birrong Girls High School within and out in the community. They were instructed to take pride in their school uniform, arrive ready and equipped to learn and to exercise leadership by promoting respectful and kind behaviour to all. Positivity, Productivity and Peace. Only good things can come from this approach.

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In the coming weeks, there are a number of events in the calendar that will provide opportunity for me to meet parents, including the Welcome BBQ for Year 7 and the P&C meeting. We will also be presenting parent workshops on

how to promote a positive study environment at home. We will be launching our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter sites where parents and the broader community will have further insight into the engaging learning activities and experiences that occur daily. There will also be conversations and consultation with all key stakeholders in our school community about technology, social media and in particular, mobile phones.

I encourage our BGHS families to establish positive study routines and organisation at home from the commencement of the school year and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible this term. I hope that each family has a wonderful start to the year and that it leads to great things for its duration.

Zena Dabaja
Principal

OUTSTANDING HSC RESULTS 2018



Daniella Jaber
ATAR: 96.3
English (Advanced) Band 6
Biology Band 6
Legal Studies Band 6
Modern History Band 6
Chemistry Band 5



Heba Almadi
ATAR: 95.85
Mathematics Band 6
Biology Band 6
Chemistry Band 5
English (Standard) Band 5
Physics Band 5



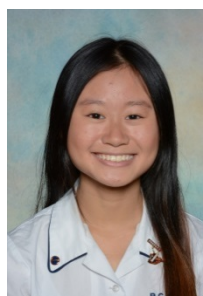
Eman Hamed
ATAR: 93.95
English (Advanced) Band 6
PDHPE Band 6
Biology Band 5
Legal Studies Band 5
Modern History Band 5



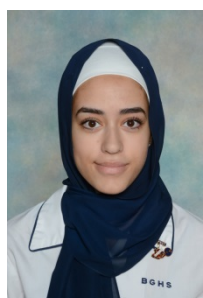
Rawan Haydar
ATAR: 93.4
English (Advanced) Band 6
Mathematics General Band 6
Biology Band 5
Chemistry Band 5
Drama Band 5



To Nhi (Kandy) Lam
ATAR: 92.0
Textiles Band 6
Biology Band 5
English (ESL) Band 5
Business Studies Band 5
Mathematics Ext 1 E3
Mathematics Ext 2 E2 (Notional Band 5)



Katherine Lieu
ATAR: 92
English (Advanced) Band 6
Biology Band 6
Business Studies Band 6
Chemistry Band 5
Mathematics Band 5



Nada Salama
ATAR: 91.05
Mathematics Band 6
Senior Science Band 6
Biology Band 5
English (Standard) Band 5
Physics Band 5



Vanessa Tran
ATAR: 90.25
Textiles Band 6
Business Studies Band 6
English (Advanced) Band 5
Retail Services Band 5
Mathematics Band 4



REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

As we begin 2019 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.

This year we will be continuing our focus on student self-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 self-reflection are for students to increase their self-awareness and self-regulation surrounding their own learning. Reflection on school work enhances its meaning and clarifies learning. Self-reflection will also provide an opportunity for students to evaluate their own personal driving force towards their learning - a recognition or affirmation of personal core beliefs and values.

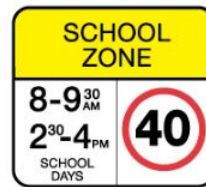


There are many opportunities available at Birrong Girls High School for your daughter to be involved in and develop her own personal skills

along the way. Year 11 students are working hard as Peer Support leaders supporting the Year 7 students and developing communication, organisational and leadership skills of their own.

It is important that your daughter attend school and is in the correct uniform at all times. Our uniform consists of black lace up hard leather traditional school shoes, navy blue or white hijab and bond, school tunic, skirt or pants and the school blouse must be worn especially under the school jumper. Finger nails must be kept short in order to meet work, health and safety requirements at school.

The school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 20 February 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. More information and permission notes have been distributed to students and should be returned as soon as possible.



The safety of our students travelling to and from school is important to us. You will often see us at the railway station and the school crossing supervising students as they enter and leave our school. We

ask you to partner with us to ensure your daughters are safe by abiding by the school zone road rules before and after school each day.

Please speak to your daughter about road safety around the school in the mornings and the afternoons. **There have been concerning incidents in the past week of students nearly being hit by drivers not seeing them.**

Encourage them to be extra careful when using the crossing outside the entrance to the school, by carefully checking for approaching cars before attempting to cross. Students should not be distracted by phones or other people around roads and crossings. Under no circumstances should students run across the road at points other than the crossing.

At the start of the new school year it is an important time to remind everyone about the Transport Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) introduction in 2018 of seven new school zone offences aimed at improving pedestrian safety around schools. For example, stopping on a pedestrian crossing in a school zone carries a fine of \$330 and a loss of 2 demerit points. Queuing across an intersection in a school zone, including roundabouts, will incur a \$439 fine and a loss of 2 demerit points. The picture below shows some of the other changes to fines and demerits in school zones.

Offence	Penalty
FACT: Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need YOU to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.	
No Parking	\$183 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
No Stopping	\$330 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Bus Zone	\$330 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Mobile Phone Use	\$439 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Speeding Offences	MAX. PENALTY: \$3740 + 7 DEMERIT POINTS
Pedestrian Crossings	\$439 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Driveways	\$183 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Lane Filtering / Overtaking	PENALTIES AND DEMERIT POINTS APPLY
Double Parking	\$330 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
Footpath and Nature Strip	\$183 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS

*Fines current as of July 2017. Fines and demerit points are subject to change.

Our school website is updated regularly with information, photos and videos that showcase student success. The school calendar provides details of events and excursions. New information will be added as the school year progresses.

We hope to see all the Year 7 parents at the Year 7 Welcome BBQ on Wednesday 13 February.

To the stars - Ad Astra!

Ms George and Ms Andrews
Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

Best Start Year 7 Assessment 2019 Information for parents and carers

Our school will participate in Best Start Year 7, an online literacy and numeracy assessment available to secondary schools in Week 4 of Term 1, 2019.

Best Start Year 7, undertaken within the first five weeks of the school year, assesses key literacy and numeracy skills of Year 7 students. It is designed to assist teachers to identify students who may require additional support in developing their literacy and numeracy skills.

Best Start Year 7 is just one of a range of assessments the school uses to assess students.

Please inform the school if your child has special needs requiring support to complete an online assessment.

Students will be asked to bring headphones or earbuds that plug into a computer to enable them to hear audio during the assessment. Earbuds used for phones or other portable devices may be suitable for use during the assessment. The type of computer connection needed is a jack or USB.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms K Andrews (Relieving Deputy) on 9644 5057 for further information.

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.

INTRODUCING THE NEW TEACHERS

Mona Baddah History



Hello! My name is Mona Baddah and I have joined the History faculty at Birrong Girls High School this year. I completed a Bachelor of Arts at Western Sydney University in 2015, and then obtained a Master's Degree in Secondary Education in 2017 at the Australian Catholic University. The school I taught at previously was Bankstown Girls High School – I was also an ex-student from there!

I have always had a passion and love for History. I think it's very interesting to see how life has progressed from the past to the present, and I believe it's very relevant to understand human activities and motivations when it comes to looking at the past in order to better our futures. I enjoy teaching both Modern and Ancient History, and some of my favourite civilisations to look at are Ancient Greece and Egypt, as well as Medieval Europe.

Becoming a teacher was one of the best things that I was able to achieve in my life. I enjoy being in the classroom, and always look forward to hearing the perspectives and opinions of my students when we learn about exciting historical topics.

I have received a very warm welcome from the students and staff at Birrong Girls, and am very thankful for the opportunity to be here for the year. May our 2019 be an excellent one!

Zena Badra Learning Support



I would like to introduce myself, Zena Badra, and I am delighted to be returning to Birrong Girls High School and joining the Learning Support Faculty. I was a previous Birrong Girls High School graduate and I look forward to contributing to the personal development, academic growth and

emotional support of the students at Birrong Girls High School.

I am a University of Western Sydney Graduate where I completed a Bachelor in Science (Biological Sciences) in 1999 and then worked in the medical industry for 2 years after which I

returned and undertook my Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) in 2002. I have worked with the Department of Education as a science teacher for over 10 years and I look forward to using my experience in supporting students in their needs as well as expanding my professional development to become a more comprehensive educator.

I would like to thank the staff and students for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be part of this unique educational setting and the wonderful members here at Birrong Girls High School for their wonderful welcome. I am looking forward to a great year.

Emma Barry History



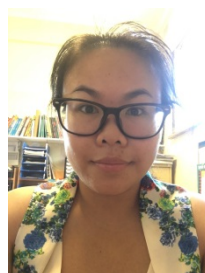
My name is Emma Barry and I am very happy to be teaching History at Birrong Girls High School. I completed a Bachelor of Arts/Education at the University of Sydney in 2016, specialising in English and

History. While studying at university I also participated in the Education and Social Work Revue, which I thoroughly enjoyed as I was able to improve my performance skills in different areas. In the last two years I have taught at Leichhardt Sydney Secondary College, Canterbury Girls High School and Auburn Girls High School.

I have been passionate about being a teacher since I was 12 years old, and I firmly believe that studying History is very important. Knowing how our current world came to be, and learning about other countries' histories and development is interesting and beneficial to everyone. This provides students with the knowledge that allows them to understand the world around them, and also to empathise with different people. Not only is History important, but I believe that it can be a fun and interesting subject in a lot of ways, and I always enjoy teaching it.

I would like to thank the staff at Birrong Girls for welcoming me and assisting me in getting settled at this fantastic school. The History faculty have been very helpful and and I am really looking forward to working with them and other staff and being part of the community here.

Juliana Do Mathematics



My name is Juliana Do and I am joining the Mathematics faculty at Birrong Girls High School for 2019. I recently completed my undergraduate teaching degree at the University of Sydney in 2018. During my undergraduate degree, I taught at Concord High School, Casula High School and Bankstown Girls High School.

I feel extremely lucky to be here at Birrong Girls and I look forward to sharing my knowledge with all the girls. I would also like to thank all of the staff and students who have welcomed me and made me feel at home.

WELFARE MATTERS

Happy New Year and may 2019 be a very productive, successful and joyful year for all our students and families. We look forward to working with families in our school community to support and nurture the development, learning and wellbeing of our students so that they can succeed and thrive.

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 below, and the Head Teacher Female Students, Ms Cathy Salvagio.

Parents and guardians can make an appointment to see our School Counsellors, the Head Teacher 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.

YEAR 7 ADVISER- Ms Robin Caravas
Assistant - Ms Morgan Legg

YEAR 8 ADVISER - Ms Anastasia Morozov
Assistant - Ms Emma Nixon

YEAR 9 ADVISER - Ms Nicky Shinas
Assistant - Ms Lucinda Wessels

YEAR 10 ADVISER - Ms Cathy Anthony
Assistant - Ms Chrystle Moxon

YEAR 11 ADVISER - Ms Christie Rothwell
Assistant - Ms Melissa Petrovska

YEAR 12 ADVISER – Ms Violeta Lazarevski
Assistants - Ms Deborah Waltho and Ms Maria
Parmaxidis

Student Assistance Scheme

Families experiencing financial difficulties can be assisted via school funds to purchase school uniform items and make payments for excursions and subject fees. The payment of General Contributions can be negotiated to be paid in instalments over the year.

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 students will need to speak to Ms Dabaja 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

Our school uniform policy outlines and clearly demonstrates the uniform items that our students are expected to wear on a daily basis. Our uniform clothing items 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, art studios and 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 and the student will be provided on day loan, the uniform item required from our second hand uniform store. If the required uniform item is not available the student will be withdrawn from class and parents will be contacted to bring the missing uniform item to school. It is 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. For safety the hems of pants should not drag on the floor and should not be ragged or torn.

Being in full school uniform demonstrates a student's respect for her school community, commitment to being a positive member of our school 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 7 March during periods 2 and 3 which will focus on study strategies for the preparation of assessments and examinations and on 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 them with HSC resources, study, assignments and exams throughout the year.

Year 11 students will participate in Elevate Education HSC preparation seminars on Friday 22 March during periods 2 and 3 which will focus on effective learning strategies 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 them with study, assignments and exams throughout the year.

Year 10 students will participate in Elevate Education seminars on Thursday 28 March during periods 2 and 3 which will focus on time management and study strategies. Students will also be provided with access to the Elevate Education website and online resources to assist them with study, assignments and exams throughout the year.

All students must attend these very beneficial seminars which are of a minimum cost to families as the school pays for a substantial 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 and Year 10 students. The following vaccinations will be provided over 3 visits:

Year 7 will be offered a 2 dose course of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination for cervical cancer prevention at visits 1 and 3, and a single dose of the Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine (Boostrix) at visit 1.

Students in Year 8 who missed one of their HPV vaccines last year will be caught up at any of the 3 booked visits.

Year 10 will be offered a single dose of the Meningococcal vaccine at visit 2.

The vaccinations will take place on the following dates:

Visit 1 on Wednesday 27 February for Year 7 students (single dose of Boostrix and Dose 1 of HPV)

Visit 2 on Friday 16 August for Year 10 students (single dose of Meningococcal vaccine)

Visit 3 on Wednesday 4 September for Year 7 students (Dose 2 of HPV).

The students will be issued the vaccination consent form closer to the time. 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 https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx

No student will be vaccinated without the signed original consent form (to be signed by a parent/guardian in black or blue pen).

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

Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Jathusika Athawan who was awarded the Student of the Month Award for October 2018. She demonstrated active citizenship and has a positive attitude to all aspects of her schooling.

Jathusika carried out valuable school service through her active involvement as Peer Support Leader and being supportive and encouraging to Year 7 students. She has dedicated time and effort on debating teams and has participated in the UTS STEM programs.

Jathusika has undertaken an accelerated course in the Tamil language and has successfully completed 2 units of her HSC. She is keen to continue to learn other languages. She has engaged positively in her cultural community, learning the classical dance, baratanatyam, for the past 4 years and has performed at cultural community events. Jathusika has undertaken classical singing classes for the past 7 years and has performed at events and at temples. She has a passion for visual arts which is reflected in her outstanding Visual Arts results and she enjoys creating artworks in her free time.

Jathusika's future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in the area of medical science or engineering. She hopes to travel overseas to see as much of the world as possible and to have the

opportunity to learn about and immerse herself in other cultures.



Congratulations to Farah Alameddine who was awarded the Student of the Month Award for November 2018. She has a mature and positive attitude toward all aspects of her schooling which has enabled her outstanding academic

achievements.

Farah carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs and teams. She has demonstrated responsibility and dedication as an enthusiastic Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students and as a very effective Peer Reading Tutor for 2 years supporting the literacy development of her Year 7 tutees. She has also been an outstanding member of the Senior Debating Team and has been successfully elected as a member of the prefect body for 2019.

Out of school Farah was involved in the 2018 Novella program at the Sydney Story Factory where she worked in groups to improve creative writing and published her own narrative. She has worked as a volunteer for Islamic Relief and assisted in their charity events. Farah has an interest in martial arts and has worked as a trainer and teaches martial arts to young children.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in Nursing or Midwifery. Farah is working towards publishing her second novella in 2019. She hopes to travel widely and take part in international volunteer work.

Ms Salvagio

Head Teacher Female Students

CAREERS NEWS

Welcome back to the new year. The Careers Advisers are looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead with many Careers activities already booked in. Birrong students will have the opportunity to explore and experience a vast range of career options and participate in future focused workshops. Ms Wailes will be in the Careers office from Monday-Wednesday and Ms Shinas on Thursday and Friday each week.

Year 10

This is an extremely important year for our Year 10 students with the Work Experience program and the subject selection process. Our first compulsory block of Work Experience will begin in Term 2, Week 5, Monday 27 May – Friday 31

May. Parents/carers are encouraged to start discussing this valuable opportunity with their daughter/ward at home. Throughout the upcoming weeks, students will participate in a Work Experience lesson where they will learn everything they need to know and receive the important paperwork. Work places book up fast; as soon as students complete their lesson with Ms Wailes, they should be organising their placements to secure a spot.

Year 12

As Year 12 enter the second term of their HSC studies, all students are advised to book an appointment with Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas to sit down and start discussing and researching post school options. UAC applications are going to be opening earlier this year, students need to start thinking about their study choices. Ms Wailes will run a UAC information session closer to application time and will cover everything students need to know about applying for tertiary education. There will be quite a number of Careers activities for Year 12 this year to support them in their decision making. The following tertiary institutions are booked in to present at school this term:

Monday 25 February, Week 5A – University of Wollongong, lunchtime in Room 16/17

Wednesday 6 March, Week 6B – University of Technology Sydney, lunchtime in Room 16/17

Wednesday 20 March, Week 8B – Sydney University, lunchtime in Room 16/17

Wednesday 27 March, Week 9A – University of New South Wales, lunchtime in Room 16/17.

These lunchtime presentations will enable students to connect with uni staff, learn specific uni information including scholarships, pathway options and adjustment factors, as well as receive valuable resources. Year 10 and Year 11 students are also encouraged to attend these presentations.

If parents/carers wish to speak with a Careers Adviser, please don't hesitate to call the school or book in an appointment.

Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas
Careers Advisers

YEAR 9 EXCURSION (2018) – OUR BIG KITCHEN



On Thursday 29 November 2018, Year 9 Food Technology students visited Our Big Kitchen. There we were given aprons and then joined up with Wenona Girls High School. Each student was then allocated a chopping board and different types of vegetables and on the chopping board was a knife and peeler. We were then given instructions on how to prepare the food. We all started off with chopping the onion and everyone was crying. All these vegetables would be made into lentil stew.

After we finished chopping up all the vegetables we cleaned up the benches. We were taken to a synagogue at the top of the building and we were told about Jewish faith and surprised how there were similarities to our practices. We then went to the kitchen and made some cookies. They told us that these cookies would go to all the children and staff at Westmead Children's Hospital. Each of us got a ball of dough and we had to share a bowl of flour, a rolling pin and a cookie cutter. We floured the benches and we were asked to roll the dough in our hands to soften it. Then we had to roll out the dough. It was a bit tricky because the dough was crumbling; however, in the end each of us managed to finish our dough.

Next we sat down and a man named Will told us what he does and how he helps the homeless. He said that every Friday he hosts a barbeque and everyone would line up in an orderly manner to get their food. He said that a lot of these people would only get to eat once every 3 days. We were given containers, lids and stickers that had the Birrong Girls High School crest. We each poured the lentil stew in containers and we passed them around, each girl would have a different job, two girls would put the stickers on the lids, one girl would pass the container down, two girls would be pouring the lentil stew in the containers and two other girls would put the lids on and another girl would secure the lids on the container. We then finished, packed away everything and wiped down the benches. We all really enjoyed this excursion which was made more special as the food prepared was given to those less fortunate.

By: Safa Laftah, Year 9 (2018)

LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome to the Library for 2019!

Mr Davidson, Mrs Hotton and the Library Monitors look forward to helping you. It will be a year full of wonderful books to excite your imagination! Celebrations include Book Week and Library Lovers' Day. The 2019 Premier's Reading Challenge will launch on 4 March.

Lunchtime activities include knitting, crocheting, Minecraft, board games, math games, scrapbooking and colouring. Students are invited to come and join in one or all of these activities at lunchtime Tuesday to Thursday.

We are open every day from 8am to 2:50pm including recess and lunchtime (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 2 weeks. New Library cards are free; however, replacement cards cost \$1.00, so keep yours safe. You are responsible for all items borrowed in your name and all lost books must be paid for as well as fines for overdue books.

The Library also runs the Scholastic Book Club once per term where you can purchase books, posters, games and gifts at discounted prices as well as earning points for the Library. They contribute to Book Week competition prizes. This year the theme for Book Week is "Reading is my Secret Power".

Year 7 come to the Library during the year to study Information Literacy and learn about narrative and storytelling. This helps them to engage in recreational reading. Years 8-12 also have classes and study in the Library. There are several learning areas and 32 desktop computers.

We are always looking for new books and sharing these with our reading community. If you have any suggestions for new titles to add to the collection just email Mr Davidson at: victor.davidson@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian



Mr Davidson and Mrs Hotton in the Library

Scholastic Book Club- issue 1 out now

Don't forget to look for the Book Club Issue catalogue that will be coming home in your child's schoolbag.

Book Club provides a fun and convenient way of bringing the best in children's literature into your home. It's packed full of exciting books from best-selling authors, popular titles and series that kids love, as well as products and books that make perfect gifts for younger siblings who may not be at school yet.

Ordering from Book Club is easy—simply go online and place your order and then Scholastic's 'book elves' take care of the rest. Before you know it, your child will have a lovely surprise to take home once their order gets delivered to their classroom.

When ordering from Book Club, you are not only helping your children, but you are also helping your school—20% of your spend goes back to your school in valuable Scholastic Rewards, which are used to buy classroom resources.

To celebrate the start of the New Year, any family ordering from issue 1 will also receive a free *All About Me Activity Journal* to help us kick-start our 2019 plans.

For more information about Scholastic and Book Club, visit www.scholastic.com.au

TREETOPS EXCURSION (2018)

On 12 December 2018, selected Year 10 students went to a rewards day at Treetops, Western Sydney. There were many fun and challenging activities to do, 10 meters and higher, up on the trees. There were particular students who were brave enough to go first and complete the courses; however, there were many of us who hesitated at the beginning but had the ability and courage to step forward and try to complete the courses. One of our favorite activities was the flying foxes and the rope bridge. An activity that many of us found challenging and didn't really like was the swinging logs. A few of us fell or lost our balance and struggled to get back up since we were hanging in mid-air. Overall, it was a really fun and rewarding day for us.

By: Year 10 students (2018)



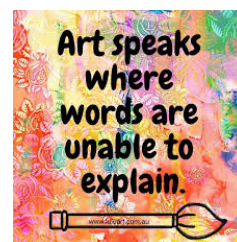
BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
**on Wednesday 6 March 2019
at 5pm in the Common Room**

CAPA REPORT

Visual Arts

We have an exciting year of creative experiences planned for Visual Arts and Photography students under the guidance of the teachers Ms Winchcombe, Ms Anthony and Ms Fitzgerald. Welcome back to all students and a warm welcome to our Year 7 students who have just joined the school. The Year 7 students have started planning their portrait drawings and will be studying portrait artists and artworks while working towards creating an artwork of someone inspirational. These artworks will be considered for submission to the Young Archie Awards at the Art Gallery of NSW. Our Year 8 students will be attending a harbourside excursion this term and will be revisiting their colour theory and colour mixing skills. This is in preparation for the seascape paintings that they will create in response to the abovementioned excursion.



The Year 9 elective students are building on their foundation skills in ceramics and commencing preliminary sketches and research towards large scale ceramic totems. The Year 10 Visual Arts students are studying Post Modernism and commencing plans for creating an appropriated painting. In Year 11, the theme for their art making is 'land'. The students have commenced creating experimental 2D works and immersing themselves in case studies of landscape and mixed media artists. The Year 12 class is busy focusing on the development of their Body of Work that will due in term 3. They have also been extensively exploring case studies and refining their skills in short and extended written responses.

The Years 9, 10 and 11 Photography students are experimenting with black and white, wet darkroom techniques as well as animation, while studying a broad range of inspirational photographic artists.

We look forward to a creative year ahead with all of our classes and sharing the completed works with the school community, through displays in our Art Centre foyer gallery.

Music



Firstly, the Music staff would like to give a warm welcome back to all students and we hope you all enjoyed your break. We are looking forward to another great year in Music with Years 7, 8, 12 and our extracurricular ensemble students.

If you have a flair for singing or play a musical instrument, the BGHS Vocal Group will be up and running again this year, led by Ms Weir, as well as the BGHS Pop Band who will be led by Mr Eveleigh. Both ensembles will be looking for new vocalists and instrumentalists. Dates for auditions will be posted in the daily notices. Please keep your eyes and ears out for these dates!

If you have any questions or want to know more about Music or our extracurricular ensembles, you can find Ms Weir or Mr Eveleigh in the CAPA staffroom. We look forward to another year full of fun and music!

By: CAPA Faculty

**To all new 2019 parents
(and especially Year 7 parents)**

You are invited to a

BBQ

**on Wednesday 13 February 2019
from 5.00pm – 7.00pm**

for a welcome to Birrong Girls High School.

We hope to see you there!

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR
For your diary / noticeboard

February:

- Wednesday, 13th
 - Year 7 (and new enrolments) Welcome BBQ, 5-7pm
- Wednesday, 20th
 - School Swimming Carnival at Birrong Leisure Centre, 8:30am – 2:15pm
- Wednesday, 27th
 - Year 7 Vaccinations

March:

- Wednesday, 6th
 - P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm
- Thursday, 7th
 - Year 5/6 Open Morning
- Friday, 8th
 - International Women's Day
- Wednesday, 13th
 - School Photo Day
- Tuesday, 19th
 - Parent/Teacher interviews, 2-6pm
- Thursday, 21st to Friday, 22nd
 - Year 8 Swim School

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

A DAY MISSED 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

GIVE YOUR CHILD EVERY CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

StoryFACTORY

ENROL NOW



From the 20th February through December

Novella

Wednesdays 4:30pm to 6pm

Poetry

Thursdays 4:30pm to 6pm

Story Factory 90 George Street Parramatta

Contact info@storyfactory.org.au
to enrol or for more information.

StoryFACTORY

ENROL NOW

*in our year-long
Poetry or Novella programs*

A select number of students will be offered the opportunity to take part in our year-long Novella and Poetry writing programs.

The programs are designed to challenge and push students to discover their potential as writers.

Working closely with tutors, students will work through idea development, writing activities, character and plot creation, and editing as they create their own novella or collection of poetry.

The programs give students the opportunity to:

- Attend weekly workshops with a qualified teacher and storyteller.
- Stretch their literacy & creative writing skills.
- Have their work professionally published and launched at the end of the year with our friends at Penguin Random House!

**Contact info@storyfactory.org.au
to enrol or for more information.**



Approved Footwear for Birrong Girls High School



HOW TO DISCUSS YOUR SCHOOL SERVICES OR REQUEST CHANGES:

The best way to resolve any issues that your child or children are experiencing with our services is to discuss it directly with your school in the first instance.

We encourage direct communication between the school and Transdev NSW and we will do our best to resolve any issues as quickly as possible. We are also more than happy to visit the school and meet with school staff, when necessary.

If you wish to lodge a complaint or feedback, please direct it via phone to 131500 or transportnsw.info to ensure it is lodged correctly. We will then be able to process it and respond to you as soon as possible.

We undertake an annual review of all school services, to help plan the timetables for the following school year. Schools may also request changes throughout the year.

While we carefully consider all requests, please keep in mind, that many of our school services are utilised by more than one school and are often linked with normal route services either before or after the school run operates. This means that some changes may not be possible in the short term, but will be considered as part of future network reviews.



USEFUL INFORMATION

YOUR SCHOOL SERVICES:

Your 'school advice sheet' provides you with the current timetable of all your allocated school services.

This document is publicly available via our website – <http://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/schools/>.

If normal route services also operate at or nearby your school or home, you can access their timetables on our website or via <https://transportnsw.info/>.

If you have any questions about your school services or any of our other route services, please contact us directly on 02 8700 0555.

LOST PROPERTY:

If your child has lost an item on one of our buses, we will do our utmost to get it back to them if we find it.

Parents or students, can call us on 02 8700 0555 Monday to Friday, between 8am and 5pm excluding public holidays, or can submit an enquiry online directly via <https://transportnsw.info>

Please note: For safety reasons we may not be able to immediately contact our driver if they are on the road. However, we will contact them as soon as it's safe to do so.

www.transdev.com.au
(02) 8700 0555



SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

This information guide gives you everything you need to know about our services and how to get assistance when you need it.



SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME

Transdev NSW supplies your school with school bus services for eligible students. Parents or students over 16 years of age, must apply for a **School Opal** or **Child/Youth Opal** card from www.opal.com.au before starting school. Please note that Transdev NSW has no involvement in this process.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAPPING ON AND OFF - WHY DO STUDENTS NEED TO?

It's essential for all school students to travel with a valid **School Opal Card** or **Child/Youth Opal Card** so that we can understand customer travel patterns and can adjust the services provided if necessary.

Every time a student TAPS ON and OFF, they are counted on our service - when they don't, they are invisible.



Transport for NSW watch our school service patronage closely to monitor the need for services and those seen with low patronage may be withdrawn.

Together with our drivers, Customer Experience Ambassadors and other Transdev NSW staff, we ask that you encourage your children to have their Opal cards ready and **TAP ON and OFF** every single time they board our services.

The better data we have, the better we can service your school adequately. This is especially true if you or your school believe that you have capacity issues with your current services.

Please also see our 'Code of Conduct' document for students on buses, published by Transport for NSW.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

We ask that all parents ensure that their children have a valid Opal card for travelling to and from school each day and encourage them to **TAP ON and OFF**.

To apply for a **School Opal** card, you will need to live a minimum distance from your school to be eligible:

- **Years K-2 (Infants)** - No minimum distance.
- **Years 3-6 (Primary)** - 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- **Years 7-12 (Secondary)** - 2km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

If you do not meet this criteria, your child/children will need to carry a **Child/Youth Opal** card with funds loaded onto it.

It's important to remember that the **School Opal** card is only for travel to and from school on school days and doesn't cover travel to After School Care, school excursions, sport and other activities away from school,



so it's a good idea to get a **Child/Youth Opal** card for personal travel.

WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING?

We are working closely with schools to improve Opal compliance and encourage students to **TAP ON** and **OFF** every time.

Where possible, we are encouraging schools to implement priority boarding for students with Opal cards and those without a card to board last.

Please note that our drivers are expected to ask students to TAP ON and OFF as part of their duties.

We will also be conducting random visits to schools to reinforce this message to students. Please encourage your child/children to **TAP ON and OFF** every time they ride.

We believe that a consistent and unified message from our drivers, schools and parents will help to change student behaviour.