



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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March 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

I can only imagine that as you are reading this, you are remembering how the school term began. There was excitement and promise about what 2020 would hold, despite the awareness that in the distance, the effects of COVID-19 had been felt in other nations and was beginning to impact a little on how we were operating here in Australia through expectations of quarantine for recent travellers.

Since week one, our students have engaged in rich learning experiences in and out of the traditional classroom. Students in each year group have attended field trips, incursions, excursions and whole school carnivals. They have engaged and interacted with other schools through extracurricular activities. No matter what key learning area or special interest, there have been challenges, successes and so much to be proud of. Our students have excelled on the sporting field, in public speaking and writing, creative and performing arts, financial literacy and STEM. These are just some examples - there are too many to name. We have engaged in fundraising for Zonta and Amnesty. We celebrated International Women's Day. We conducted an extremely successful food drive for the House of Welcome who support asylum seekers within our community.

As the weeks have passed, it has been difficult for many people in the broader community to maintain level-headedness and a sense of calm. It is understandable why sometimes the reporting in the media can promote concern about the safety of our loved ones. However, it is precisely in this sort of

environment that rational and sensible behaviour is required. We must model this for our children. While there are current social distancing protocols in place to protect each other and work towards the prevention of spreading infectious diseases, it is vital that our perspective is driven by the knowledge that there are still positive and exciting experiences ahead for our students this year on their learning journey. The landscape may look a little different, but we are committed to continuing to serve our community and to do so by delivering the highest quality education that is possible.

As I write this entry for our Bulletin, I am very aware that our response to COVID-19 has been evolving.

BGHS LEARNING FROM HOME: Information and Protocols

Parents and students are advised that this information is accurate at time of dissemination and is subject to change.

BGHS is still open and classes are available for students who attend. In response to our community needs, we will also be delivering learning online until further notice.

The School Day: The New Normal

Classes are still being conducted onsite at BGHS. Year 11 and 12 are encouraged to attend, particularly to access direct support for the practical components of their courses. Immersion workshops will be offered for Year 12 students with practicals and major works to complete with appropriate social distancing and hygiene protocols in place to ensure they are not disadvantaged in the HSC.

All students have been set up to accept Google classroom with their teachers in each of their subjects/courses. Students MUST check their emails regularly throughout the day.

Students are still enrolled at school and are expected to "attend" school all day, every day, whether they are learning on-site or from home.

Students are expected to be present punctually at every lesson and for the entire duration of the lesson whether they are learning on-site or from home.

The school day commences at 8.30am and concludes at 2.50pm.

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If students are learning from home, they are expected to follow the school timetable, logging into the relevant Google classroom being led by their teacher. They must participate in the lesson appropriately and complete their work on a daily basis. Attendance in online lessons is mandatory for students at home. Their break times are between classes and recess and lunch.

Technology, troubleshooting and access

Additional avenues of communication include email and phoning the school. If you have issues with technology that cannot be resolved immediately and it impacts on your access to learning, you can email your teacher immediately so they send you the work as soon as they are able. If your technical issues need further support, you can contact the school to seek advice.

If you require your work to be accessible via hard copy package, you need to request this through your Year Adviser or Deputy Principal. These can be compiled for pick up through the school. Your teacher/s will arrange this for you in partnership with your supervising Deputy Principal.

If you have issues accessing the appropriate technology at home, you must communicate with your Deputy Principal immediately.

Assessment Tasks

Students are advised that assessments will continue as part of the learning and teaching schedule. Assessments will be run as hand-in/online submissions for junior students. Students in Years 11 and 12 are advised that the assessment schedule will run as published until the conclusion of Term 1 and will be revised and reassessed as further advice from the Health Department is issued in the future. Social distancing and hygiene arrangements will continue to ensure the safety of students while on-site at BGHS. Attendance, engagement in class (real or virtual) and completion of quality work all contribute to students meeting their final outcomes. If a student is feeling unwell or may have been in contact with someone infected with COVID-19, they must remain at home and provide the necessary documentation as per the school's assessment policy.

Attendance

Roll marking

As we are transitioning into a new environment where we are running two concurrent schools (one online and one on-site) new codes will be developed to distinguish between students who are officially engaging as part of the school day and those who are not. Currently, two records are being maintained- those who are on-site and as online learning has begun, teachers have been instructed to maintain records of who is attending Google classrooms. Please be assured that the notion of

'unjustified' absences will, in time, be attributed to the relevant students only. There is no cause for concern if your child is learning from home and it is clear and demonstrated that they have been doing so. As in all cases and situations, high levels of communication between home and school are encouraged in order to address or resolve any queries you may have.

Failure to attend school daily, whether accessing on-site or online will result in long term consequences. Students in Years 10-12 are reminded that these will be reflected in NESA Warning Letters and could impact on attainment of the RoSA and/or HSC.

Additional Support

BGHS teachers are incredibly dedicated to their students. However, it is important to remember that teachers are human beings with families and other responsibilities. They are not available 24 hours a day. While they may make themselves available to senior students and respond more regularly, this is what we determine as 'above and beyond' the call of duty. We have prepared some online communication protocols that students are expected to follow.

In the coming weeks, we will set up a virtual Homework Centre so that students have an opportunity to seek additional help online between 3-5pm.

Students who require additional learning support will continue to be catered for. Our Learning Support staff will be developing support materials, responding to student queries and running online support programs.

Support for Student Wellbeing

- The school's Wellbeing Team and initiatives will still be in operation
- Students who require support can access this support online or via the telephone if they choose not to come in person while the school is open. This must be done during school time. This means you can email or phone to speak with the Year Adviser or School Counsellor. The School Counsellor timetable is as follows:

Day	Counsellor on duty
Monday	Ms Tselepi
Tuesday	Week A 12pm onwards Ms Patty
Wednesday	Ms Patty and Ms Leigh
Thursday	Ms Tselepi
Friday	Ms Patty and Ms Leigh

Students and parents who need additional support or support outside of school hours are encouraged to access the following where relevant

- **National Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080**
- **Your local GP or community health centre**
- **Local police**
- **Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800**
kidshelpline.com.au
- **Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636**
- **Lifeline: 13 11 14**

Important Sources of Information and Portals of Communication for Parents and Students
BGHS School Phone Number: 02 9644 5057
BGHS School Website: birronggir-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
BGHS Facebook Page
BGHS Skoolbag App

Online Communication Protocols

- All online communication must be polite and respectful towards teachers at all times
- It is an offence to misappropriate images, text or footage of DoE employees without their knowledge or permission
- Inappropriate conduct or breach of protocols will result in serious consequences (school and legal) for individuals or groups involved
- Students are not permitted to conduct personal/social/conversations/commentary via the Google classroom platform
- Students are not permitted to communicate 'complaints' in this Google classroom forum. Any concerns or queries of this nature must be communicated via direct emails to teachers or relevant staff members
- Teachers will respond to students in a timely manner wherever possible. Students are welcome to send communications as their need arises but can expect that any communication past 4.30pm will be responded to on the following day, if not prior
- All emails to teachers must be structured with the proper salutation and sign-off. This means that the email opens with Dear Ms/Mrs/Mr _____, and closes with Yours sincerely, followed with the name of the student _____. Messages to

teachers should be expressed in simple and clear sentences outlining the queries being made. Please see the following example below:

Dear Ms Ad Astra,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to ask three questions about the assignment that is due.

1. Is my chosen topic investigating the most dangerous earthquakes appropriate?
2. Does using three online sources comply with the marking criteria?
3. What should I do if there is a problem uploading the information report?

Thank you for your response in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Starr

Advice to Parents about Learning from Home

Choosing to keep your children at home is understandable considering the unexpected and unprecedented pandemic we are facing.

In his press conference on Sunday, March 22, our Prime Minister made it clear that parents who keep their children at home from school are responsible for their routine, overseeing their learning and their conduct and interactions in and around the community. Parents are strongly advised to heed these warnings.

Advice for routine at home

- 'School away from school' should be the mindset for entire family. The school day commences no later than 8.15am and concludes at 3pm. Break times should mirror those scheduled in the school timetable, with additional incremental breaks
- Provided in the minutes usually scheduled for movement between classes.
- Students should not be engaging in social media, gaming, watching television, household chores or babysitting during the school day.
- Students should be encouraged to eat, stretch and move around during their break times. Whenever possible, it is important that their breaks are outside in their backyard to expose them to fresh air and sunshine.

These are new and unexpected challenges where what lies ahead is uncertain. However, we are confident that our community will stand strong when united and working together. Our common interest and commitment is to the students and families we serve. Education is the strongest foundation upon which our future rests and we are dedicated to providing this essential service. We thank our community for their ongoing support.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the entire staff at Birrong Girls High School. With the highest levels of commitment and positivity, they arrive to work each day and serve our community. They work as a team and as a family, but it is important to remember that they are individuals with families of their own. They too want to ensure that their family members and their health are not at risk. They have been professional and have not compromised the quality of the essential service they deliver for a moment. While they have been engaging in these demanding, daily responsibilities, they have also been preparing for online learning in case the need arises. At this point, our government and the Department of Education have reiterated that school will remain open, but the resources for online/remote learning exist and are ready to be accessed. Your children should already be in communication with their teachers via Google classroom to ask question and access additional resources the teacher posts to supplement the learning of the day. These are not practices that are foreign to them. Despite this, teachers will upskill students to ensure they can access Google classroom with ease in the coming weeks. We are well resourced and skilled enough to be flexible in our response to emerging needs. Everything will be okay. Parents are welcome to contact the school should they need to discuss any matter of concern further. Thank you to all our parents who continue to send their children to school. It is the best place for them to be at this time.

Zena Dabaja
Principal
25.3.20

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Students' success at Birrong Girls High is closely linked to attendance, involvement in the range of experiences that the school offers as well as home study and revision. Many students have already signed up for a range of extracurricular activities across the school.

Year 12 has participated in the **Study Skills** program, which reinforced the valuable study tools required that will continue to support their preparation for future assessments and examinations.

Year 11 students have commented on how much work they are doing during the early stage of their journey towards the HSC in 2021. The Year 11 VET (Vocational Education Training) students completed their 'Work Ready' day to prepare themselves for the 70 hours of mandatory work placement that will begin during Term 2 for the Retail Cert III, Business Services Cert II and the Hospitality Cert II students. The 'Work Ready' day included guest speakers from the community covering a range of topics such as **WH&S** (work, health and safety) and **The World of Work, Preparing for Work Placement** - advice from our work placement provider MWPL Courtney Ditton. The day was successful and Year 11 students reported that they had gained meaningful insights into the world of work. The compulsory Year 11 **Study Skills** program took place on Friday 13 March.

19 August - Year 10 will participate in the **Study Skills** program which introduces effective study techniques and time management skills as well as providing students with tips to build their confidence and increase their motivation to learn.

HSC Minimum Standards: Students will meet the HSC minimum standard through short online tests in reading, writing and numeracy. Tests can be taken in Years 10, 11 or 12 and will be again organised here at school. Students can take the test more than once if they need to. We will provide more advice about achieving the minimum standards throughout the year.

Year 9 students are enjoying their elective courses and displaying a mature approach towards their learning. We hope that Year 9 students will begin to take on some of the leadership roles in the extracurricular clubs and teams of the school as the year progresses. The ten Year 9 students who make up the 2020 Helmsman Team attended the 3-day adventure camp and are now working hard to finalise their community project planning stage and move to the project development stage. We look forward to hearing more about their project as it develops.

Students in Year 8 are settling back into the school routine, many of them receiving achievement awards from their teachers and then coming to claim their Certificates of Merit. Well done girls!

Year 7 students have settled in well and have been mentored by Year 11 peer support leaders. The peer support sessions organised by Ms Legg aim to increase the awareness, support and connectedness Year 7 students have with their new surroundings and to ensure that they understand the expectations we have of students at Birrong GHS.

The 'Tell Them from Me' student feedback survey

This term, our school, like many others in the state, will once again participate in a Department of Education initiative: the 'Tell Them from Me' student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and will measure factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The NSW wide survey will focus on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for students to provide our school with valuable and effective feedback about their thoughts on school life, how engaged they feel at school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the 'Tell Them from Me' survey to help improve school systems and student satisfaction.

To clarify, the survey information is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will take 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 16 March and 27 March. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish your daughter to take part in the survey you need to have returned the 'Parent Information Sheet' that was sent home via your daughter.

Homework and Revision

A reminder, all students are expected to complete homework. This includes formal work set by teachers as well as revision and wide reading. The following guidelines indicate the number of hours students in various years should set aside for homework:

- Years 7 and 8 - one hour each night
- Years 9 and 10 – a minimum of two hours each night
- Years 11 and 12 – at least three hours each night

Ms George and Ms Andrews

Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

INTRODUCING A NEW TEACHER

Jyothi Subramaniam
Mathematics



I am thrilled to be placed as a permanent staff member in the Mathematics faculty at Birrong Girls High. I have worked mainly the Northwest area and Hills Area in co-ed and single-sex schools over the last 12 years. In my previous career, I worked as a Computer Engineer and in IT for several years before deciding to change my career to teaching. I felt my passion for Mathematics, Science and Technology will be better fulfilled working with my own two daughters and other young minds in the community. I am already loving my time (with the NO mobile phone policy) and feel so welcomed by all the staff and students at Birrong Girls. I am looking forward to working with the school and staff in more capacities than just a Mathematics teacher in the years to come, to encourage, support, guide and engage the girls in a meaningful and fun way and hopefully inspire them to achieve their personal best in everything they do.

HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Attendance is a vital component in every student's learning. Statistics clearly show that the students who achieve their best are those students who have great attendance. School begins at 8:30am and as such, all students need to be at school prior to the bell for the start of first period.

The text messaging system is a very valuable tool in tracking student attendance. If your daughter has been 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 as soon as possible via text reply or phone call so your daughter's school records can be updated to justify her absence. It is a legal requirement that parents explain to the school any absence, late arrival or early leaver application that their daughter may have.

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.

I also encourage all parents and students to download the Skoolbag App. Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students free of charge and its use will increase this year. To avoid missing out on important information, install the free Birrong Girls High Skoolbag App by searching for our school name on either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. For Windows Phone, and Windows 8.1 or 10 users, search for Skoolbag in the Windows store.

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 straight away.

The Department of Education's School Attendance Policy, which the school follows, can be viewed at the following web site:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/school-attendance-policy>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Clark
Head Teacher Administration

WELFARE MATTERS



National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (NDA) - Friday 20 March 2020

Our school community stands united against bullying. **Say no to bullying.**

What is Bullying?

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying is when someone:

- keeps picking on you again and again and tries to make you feel bad
- says or does lots of mean things that upset you
- makes fun of you a lot
- tries to stop you from joining in or make others not like you
- keeps hurting you such as hitting or punching you.



Bullying – what can you do?

If it happens in person:

- ignore them
- tell them to stop and then walk away
- pretend you don't care
- go somewhere safe
- get support from your friends.

If it happens online:

- avoid responding to the bullying
- block and report anyone who is bullying online
- protect yourself online – use privacy settings and keep records.

If you see someone being bullied:

- leave negative online conversations – don't join in
- support others being bullied.

If it doesn't stop:

- talk to an adult (parent, teacher, counsellor) who can help stop the bullying
- keep asking for support until the bullying stops.

Check out the **Bullying. No Way!** site <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au> for facts and information about bullying prevention and go to <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/forkids> for kids friendly information and suggestions.

Study Skills Seminars

All Years 7 to 12 students are participating in Elevate Education study skills workshops this term which will focus on effective learning strategies and study techniques to enhance students' engagement and performance in learning. 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 workshops which are at a reasonable cost as the school pays part of the cost.

Vaccinations

The first visit for Year 7 Vaccinations was on 20 February for the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and the first dose of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination. If students were absent on the day they will be caught up when the nurses return on 18 June.

Year 10 students will be able to receive a single dose of the Meningococcal vaccine on 18 June. Students will be issued the consent forms closer to the time.

Ms Salvagio
Head Teacher Female Students

CAREERS NEWS

Tertiary Institution Presentations

Over the past few weeks universities have started visiting us to conduct lunch time presentations for our students in Years 10, 11 and 12. These presentations give our girls more knowledge about specific unis, degrees on offer, admission criteria, scholarships and equip our students to make more informed decisions. So far we've had WSU, UNSW and USYD present. Student attendance at these presentations has been fantastic so far, a great indicator that our senior students are taking their futures very seriously.



Year 12

As Year 12 have well and truly settled into their final year, students are strongly encouraged to book in to see the Careers Advisers. Please use the booking sheet located on the Careers office door and schedule an interview time to discuss future career plans.

Year 9 and 10 Work Education

The Year 9 and 10 Work Education elective classes have been working hard on new skills this term with Ms Wailes. The main one being introducing the concept of 'touch typing'. Touch typing (also called touch type or touch keyboarding) is a style of typing. Although the phrase refers to typing without using the sense of sight to find the keys - specifically, a touch typist will know their location on the keyboard through muscle memory - the term is often used to refer to a specific form of touch typing that involves placing the eight fingers in a horizontal row along the middle of the keyboard (the *home row*) and having them reach for specific other keys. Students

have been working through a free online course <https://www.typingclub.com/>. Many students have found this style of typing extremely challenging and frustrating to learn and feel as though they are learning to type for the very first time. Touch typing is such a critical workplace skill that will be beneficial in any career and throughout one's life. Our Work Education students have been encouraged to continue practicing outside of class and hopefully integrate this style of typing into everyday life where it will become second nature. If any families are wanting to have a look at this course please feel free to explore the website.

Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas
Careers Advisers

2020 SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL



On Monday 24 February the Birrong Girls High School swimming carnival was held at Birrong Leisure Centre. The day was full of excitement and apprehension.

The day began with the Year 12 parade and they provided us with an array of interesting costumes, themes and an exciting dance display. Thank you Year 12 for your creative and fun filled ideas to get our carnival underway.

We had a host of excellent swimmers who took part in the races, many of them taking part in all events for their age group. Congratulations go to the following students for being awarded age swimming champions for 2020:

12 Years Liana Saboune, 13 Years Bonnie Han, 14 Years Rayane Wazir, 15 Years Daliya El Helou, 16 Years Eden Jamal and 17 Years Rawa Nazha.

Congratulations to the following elected 2020 House Captains:

Bundarra Nessrine Charkawi (C) Althea Calero (VC)

Inga Aamilah Elsayed (C) Asrah El Saddick (VC)

Miga Aliyah Lahega (C) Khant Khant Lwin (VC)

Yurong Anaseini Rokalati (C) Jenny Thai (VC).

We are sure the girls will take on their leadership role with pride and actively promote physical activity and participation in sport to all year groups. The swimming carnival saw very close competition between house groups. The house cheering competition was fiercely contested with a range of dances, cheers and house colours in full view of the judges. Congratulations go to INGA house for having the best cheer on the day and for winning the carnival.

Congratulations to every girl who swam in a race on the day. It is not about what place you came but the fact you "had a go".

Ms McEwen and Ms Lord
PE Faculty

ZONE AND REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the following students who competed at the Zone Swimming Carnival which took place on Friday 28 February at Birrong Leisure Centre.

Hannah Fahme, Shadijah Hamdan, Jazel Saboune, Eve Park, Armani Charkawi, Sima Jirjnazi, Bonnie Han, Amani Alameddine, Shahnaz Mozakzak, Rayane Wazir, Calais Jones, Xenobia El Ali, Daliya El Helou, Saariah Malas, Ilesha Fahme, Dibe Chaker, Eden Jamal, Rayanne Charkawi and Yasmin El Cheikh Bakkour.

Congratulations to the following students who competed at the Regional Swimming Carnival which took place on Monday 9 March at Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre, Bradbury.

We had an open medley relay team. Well done to our awesome competitors!
Calais Jones, Eve Park, Bonnie Han, Shahnaz Mozakzak.
They performed extremely well and should be very proud of their efforts.

Well done to all our girls who participated with such enthusiasm.

Ms McEwen and Ms Lord
PE Faculty

FIGHT LIKE A GIRL

The Birrong Girls Boxing group is off to a great start with around 40 students returning notes to attend. Ms Mezzino and Mr Farrugia are co-running the sessions after school on Thursdays and have been pleased with the girls' motivation and determination to train hard.

So far, the girls have been practising drills that focus on mastering the basic punches used in our sessions. We have been focusing on correct technique and core strength building activities as well as learning to push through the initial desire to give up when we feel tired – a skill we all need at some point in our lives. Birrong girls are proving to be both powerful and determined. A big thank you to the PE staff for providing the gloves and pads used in training each week.

By: Ms Mezzino

OPEN BASKETBALL REPORT



The open basketball team travelled to Bruins Stadium at Condell Park on Friday 13 March to compete in the first two rounds of the SWS Basketball Knock out. Girls had been training for several weeks after school and the feeling in the bus was apprehensive but calm.

We arrived at the stadium to find our first game was against Liverpool Girls High School. Liverpool scored the first two baskets before good work by Naomi Sleiman and Anaseini Rokolati saw Birrong surge ahead as a result of good shot selection and strong rebounding. An accidental poke to Fatima Thomas' eye saw her rested for the majority of the half.

At half time Birrong assumed a lead of 4 points in a well-balanced, evenly matched game.

The second half started with Birrong surging ahead by 10 points as a result of dominating rebounding by Anaseini at both ends of the court. Aided by Sara Abdelkader, Aliyah Lahega, Farah Abdelalim and an athletic Fatima Thomas, Birrong were able to shut down the rebounds and slow a revitalised Liverpool team. Fast hands by Amira Annous, Zena Haydar and Amirah El-Etri saw several turn overs occur. Despite this, Liverpool were closing in to be within 1 point after a long range three-point shot.

With one minute to go, Birrong worked the ball around the key to open up an uncontested shot for Naomi who put Birrong up by three points. However, the game was not over. With 3 seconds to go Liverpool worked the ball into a front court and set up for a 3 point shot. Defended strongly, the ball looked likely to fall and send the game into extra time. However, it was not to be and as the siren sounded, Birrong were victorious with a score of 24-21 and progressed into the next round where they would face East Hills girls who defeated Bankstown Girls in round 1. MVP honours for game 1 were shared by Naomi Sleiman and Anaseini Rokolati.

The second game had additional meaning with the winner right to claim the unofficial title of zone champion. The game started strongly with Birrong moving the ball around the key to open up some good shots. However, the team look fatigued after a tight first match. East Hills were consistently shooting well and took control of the game mid-way through the half. At half time the score saw East Hills leading 28-8.

The second half began much like the first with East Hills fending off a gallant Birrong team to draw away and win the game comfortably 54 -18 and progress to the third round. MVP for the second match was Naomi Sleiman who top scored with 8 points.

It was pleasing to see all girls play hard competitive basketball in the right spirit. They contested all 50/50 contests and were sporting in their praise and care for their opposition. It was a pleasure to accompany these fine representatives of our school. I hope to see more girls taking the opportunity to grab a ball and practice / play on the double courts at lunchtime and develop a passion for the sport.

Mr Saule
Coach

YEAR 12 LEGAL STUDIES EXCURSION TO DOWNING CENTRE COURTS COMPLEX

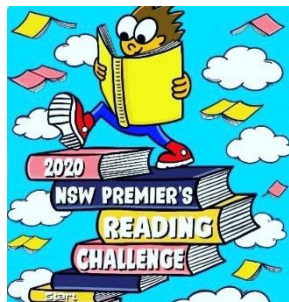
On 26 February, twenty-three Year 12 Legal Studies students attended an excursion to the Downing Centre Courts Complex to gain a deeper understanding about Australia's legal system and the processes of the local and district courts. It was an eventful and an enjoyable day for all students. Students witnessed the police work in action at the very start of the day when police booked 'jaywalkers' outside the courts complex.

At the courts, students had a Q&A session with Her Honour Judge H. Symes. The District Court judge answered a range of many questions about her experiences and as to how her honour responds to various cases. The students were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to speak to one of the Public Prosecutors (Mr Crown) and ask further questions, which enabled them to enhance their understanding of the court process. After completing this great session with her honour the girls had the opportunity to visit various local courts and district courts within the complex where they were able to observe various cases allowing them to witness first hand the system of the law and see the judges and magistrates work in action. Overall, the Year 12 Legal Studies excursion to the Downing Centre Courts Complex provided the students with an informative and educative opportunity.

Going to the court and speaking to a female judge has altered our perspective and has inspired us as young women to break through the "glass ceiling". Many of us now aspire to become great female figures with a significant influence. We now know that it is not impossible to reach the top as a woman in this day and age, with living proof of the female judge who welcomed us and answered all of our questions sharing over 30 years of experience in our judicial system.

**By: Nessrine Charkawi and Amani Alameddine
(Year 12)**

LIBRARY NEWS



The 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge has begun! It is a challenge for all Year 7, 8 and 9 students. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The link is at:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Mr Davidson and Mrs Hotton can help you find and add books.

PEPPERCORNS POEMS

Nothing changes
yet nothing stays.
Time has not left a single mark on this place.
Here lies the empty space
Where the fields stretch far
And the barren road of tar is a strip in the middle.
The crops shrivel away in a dance of death.
My people hide from the afternoon sun that lies
embedded in the sky
painted not grey
but colours of their blood.
The lost ones in their dismayed innocence
only last long enough here to meet their souls.

My friend,
nothing changes
yet nothing stays.

By: Karthika Athawan

Will I Be Forgotten?

Still so young but not home yet,
The sun rises and goes back down.
I am only 12, what more will you take from me?
Dear Lord, please give me more.
More to earn, more to grow,
Otherwise, no one will know the poor.
Will I be left at last to earn,
For my family each day as I get old?
Every day my back hunches,
Crowding over the dry old crops.
But will that mean my life will end short?
Will that mean I will be gone?
Like a speck of dust, brushed off after hard work,
I will be useless.
I will be unknown.
I will be forgotten.

By: Karthika Athawan

I feel my ancestors calling me
To join their warm circle,
To come back and
Relive the moments we never had.
I feel my elders calling me,
Telling me to pour the tea
And to offer it to others.
My family is
Holding me close.
This is where I live.
This is my home.

By: Zara Jalloul

The field runs far
Behind the everlasting sun.
The grassland looks like winding mazes,
painted strips of yellow and green.
The women, their backs hunched over the dried
crops,
their skin darkened after all those times spent in
the meadow.
At the end of the rainbow in one corner, little
houses are standing still.
From miles away, the houses seem to be long
away from home.
But when the sky darkens they come ready to
cook dinner like every night

By: Khanh Nguyen

FROM THE ENGLISH DESK

Our English teachers have had the pleasure of fostering speaking and poetic skills in our students this term. It's really important to remember that our students need every opportunity to express their ideas, opinions and thoughts, in order to grow into fully expressed young adults. It has been wonderful to see the variety of interests and approaches over several weeks and we look forward to witnessing their evolution as the year unfolds.

Below are two poems by Year 11 students to give you an idea of their capacity to creatively explore experiences through metaphors.

A Clock's Control by Danielle Rifahi

My hands are more active than your own
I'm always moving, never ceasing
Constantly in motion, if only to control you
My never ending movements define your life
Because I show time

I am a clock yet I am an armed robber
I hold the power
With time, with a gun
Holding the control over your life
You must do as I say

You look to me in times of need
Hoping for me to halt, help and heal you
But I will never stop

So you may continue trying
But I am a clock
And I will always control you

The Pen by Ruth Pascua

My long, thin structure makes it so easy to get a
hold of me.
Held by many hands, large or small,
Feeling their clammy palms on my cylindrical
form.
They use my rounded point to write
Their thoughts,
Their feelings,
Their honest desires hidden from the world with
lies.

Day or night they tell me their stories,
I listen as they scratch on paper,
Showing themselves to me thinking I'm as mute
as a stone.
I am the only one who truly knows.
I become omniscient.
Their true selves illuminate the paper,
With all of their flaws and gifts,
Extricating themselves from hours of people
pleasing and lying to themselves.

I feel their bear grip loosen.
The truth is laid out in front of their eyes.
Relieved, they sigh.
Relieved, they slouch.
Relieved, they let go.
I finally breathe.

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

**Cough or sneeze
into your arm**



Use a tissue



Bin the tissue



Wash your hands



**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP
THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus
(COVID-19)** visit **health.gov.au**



Australian Government

Authorized by the Australian Government, Canberra

Practice simple hygiene by washing hands regularly



1 Wet hands



2 Apply soap



3 Lather & scrub



4 Rinse hands



5 Turn off tap



6 Dry hands



Spend 20 seconds washing your hands.