



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrongo 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 5

August 2023

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 3, a term that is full of exciting activities from subject selections for Years 8 and 10, the selection of the 2024 Prefect body to the conclusion of course study for Years 11 and 12.

School Development Day

At our Term 3 School Development Day on Monday 17 July our teachers participated in a series of workshops including a presentation by Eddie Woo who made the art of mathematics very practical and engaging. We also engaged with a Literacy presentation led by members of the Literacy team focusing on reading and high leverage strategies. These highly successful activities, led by experienced teachers from the school and industry experts, provided a great professional opportunity for teachers to work collegially for enhanced teaching practice and collaborative processes.

School Improvements

The school is in initial stages of a school building upgrade project. If you need to visit the school to make enquiries, make payments, or pick up your daughter we ask that you enter through the front gate and head directly to the new 'Demountable Office Building' set up at the front of the main school building. In the coming weeks the hall will be demolished, and the start of a three-storey building will commence. Besides the three-storey building you will also see the construction of a new school hall that enables our whole school community to meet together in one place.

Year 12

For Year 12 it is their final term of high school life and they are now finalising major projects and preparing for their Trial HSC examinations which will commence in Week 5, Monday 14 August. Excellent attendance, motivation, self-discipline and hard work are essential to success in the HSC and, indeed, life. Students should also seek out their teachers who have the knowledge and expertise to assist them in maximising their success. We wish our Year 12 students the very best for their Trials in the lead up to the HSC.

Term 3

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

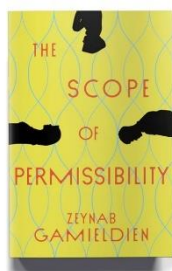
Uniform Matters

Our school community has very high expectations with regard to uniform because it presents a positive image of the school to the public and creates a sense of belonging. Now that winter is here, students should be wearing the winter uniform which includes the woollen school jumper and blazer, available from our onsite uniform shop. Cardigans, jackets, hoodies and black long sleeved undergarments are not part of our uniform and are not to be worn. Please ensure that your daughter conforms fully to the school's uniform policy, a copy of which can be found in her school diary or on our website, and wears her uniform with pride.

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Congratulations to:

• Zeynab Gamieldien (an ex-student) for her recent book publication. This is indeed a great honour and testament to her talent and dedication. She is the inaugural winner of the 2022 Westwords–Ultimo Prize. Her work has been shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and featured in publications such as the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Daily Life section and the *Australian Muslim Times*. *The Scope of Permissibility* is her first novel.



Thank you to:

• The parents who took the opportunity to discuss their daughter's Semester 1 reports with the teachers at the Parent-Teacher meeting on Monday 26 June 2023. The feedback received from the online survey completed by parents on the evening was very positive. Parents indicated they believe very strongly that:

- the teachers are caring and provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment
- the school takes their concerns seriously
- the school is always looking for ways to improve what it does
- the school provides helpful information about their daughters' progress.

Coming Events

- Zonta Birthing Kits assembly day, 12 August
- Year 12 Trials 14-25 August
- Year 8 Field Day 16 August
- Year 11 Final examinations 28 August – 8 September
- CAPA Extravaganza 30 August
- Year 7 Field Day 18 October

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment with me (Tel: 9644 5057) if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter's education.

Warmest regards,

Renee George
Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome to Term 3 2023, one of the busiest terms for all students across the school! It is very important that education is our focus, and we all need to work towards the common goal.



Year 12 students are working exceptionally hard as they near their Trial HSC examinations, which commence in Week 5. This is the last term of course work for students before they embrace their HSC examinations in Term 4. All students will need to work hard and knuckle down into strong home study habits to assist their examination preparation. Take your teachers' advice and don't let obstacles get in the way of your success. Make sure you take advantage of the Homework Centre and any HSC clinics made available to you for each of your subjects. Students should also have a look at the NSW Department of Education's Stay Healthy HSC website which contains fantastic resources and strategies for study techniques, exam tips and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-HSC>



Year 11 students are also engaging in the last term of their preliminary studies before they commence their HSC course of study in Term 4. Year 11 will also be involved in the nomination and selection of the 2023–2024 Prefect body in the second half of this term. This process is about selecting students who represent and uphold the ideals of Birrong Girls High School in all areas of life. Prefects who are selected are role models and ambassadors for our school community and the process is taken very seriously. Year 11 students also face their final examinations starting in Week 7. The tips provided above on the Stay Healthy HSC website are equally recommended for Year 11 students.

Year 10 students are currently engaging in the Year 10 subject selection program, including a Subject Market, a student and parent/carer information session and targeted interviews with our Executive teachers. The aim of the subject selection process is to introduce information about the range of courses that students can select for Year 11 and continue into Year 12 from 2024 to 2025. Students will gain valuable insights into the rigour required for all courses before having to make their ultimate selections. The subject selection information session at school and online via ZOOM meeting focused on the Year 10 subject selection process regarding appropriate course selections, Preliminary and HSC requirements and ATAR information to assist in the overall selection of 2024 courses. Thank you to the many parents/carers who participated in these important sessions. If students or parents/carers have any concerns with subject selections, please contact the school and speak to the relevant Year Adviser, Head Teacher, Ms Blue, or Ms George.

Year 9 students are enjoying participating in a range of extracurricular activities! Several students participated in the school's Under 15's Basketball Team. Aurora Beaumont also represented our school at the State Cross Country Carnival after placing 1st at the Regional Carnival. A massive congratulations to Aurora for her outstanding representation of our school – she came 48th out of all NSW Government schools!

Our spoken word competition is also underway for Year 9 and requires our students to compose and perform their own piece of poetry about any aspect of their life experiences. Class winners have already been selected to compete in the final during Education Week in Week 3. We look forward to what is sure to be an inspiring final on Friday 4 August.

Year 8 students are preparing for the selection of their Year 9 2024 elective subjects. All Year 8 students have been issued with a course booklet outlining individual course information before they must narrow their selections down to the two most appropriate courses for them to study throughout 2024-2025. Students are also finalising their sustainability projects and presentations that they developed in Science, Technology, Mathematics and Visual Arts classes. We are looking forward to seeing the final presentations.

Year 7 will be engaging in a STEAM project this term as part of Project 21, which emphasises the development of the 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics – and at Birrong this means students working together to solve a problem. The project will begin with a STEAM-skills immersion development day and will continue to expand their skills during their Science,

Technology, Visual Arts and Mathematics lessons. Students will work in teams to create a rollercoaster which incorporates the elements of each subject, as well as those 21st century skills!

We encourage students to attend the Homework Centre onsite every Tuesday to Thursday and Monday online. Please contact the office for specific details.

Ms Blue, Ms Boyle (Rel.) and Ms Caravas (Rel.)
Deputy Principals

WELFARE MATTERS

Online consent for school vaccination

If your daughter is in Year 7 or Year 10 this year, you can now provide online consent for their school vaccinations.

In Year 7, students are offered free vaccines for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) and human papillomavirus (HPV). In Year 10, students are offered the meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Vaccination will only be provided at school if consent has been received.

How to provide consent:

1. To complete online consent for your child's school vaccinations, visit: <https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school>
2. Follow the steps to log in to your existing ServiceNSW account. This is the same account you may already use to renew your driver's licence. If you don't have a ServiceNSW account, refer to ServiceNSW to create one.
3. Update or confirm your personal details in ServiceNSW as required.
4. Complete the School Vaccination Consent Form for your daughter(s). You will need to:
 - a) Enter your daughter's personal details
 - b) Provide the Medicare card details for you and your daughter
 - c) Read the linked Parent Information Sheet and privacy statement
 - d) Provide consent

If you or your daughter do not have a Medicare card, consent can still be provided by requesting a paper-based consent form from our school reception office or from Ms Rilkovski.

The benefits of providing consent online:

- easily update your child's details
- receive SMS and/or email notifications when vaccinations are given
- faster upload of vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

For more information on routine school vaccinations, please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination or call the Liverpool Public Health Unit on 9794 0855.

If you require information in your language, please visit

www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx

The NEXT school vaccinations this year are:

Week 7 Thursday 31 August 2023 for Year 7 and Year 10 catch up Vaccinations.

Is your child in year 7 or year 10?

Provide your consent for routine school vaccinations online.

At the beginning of the school year, your child's school will share the link to complete the online consent form.

Benefits of providing online consent:

- easily update your child's details
- get SMS notifications when vaccinations are given
- faster upload of vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

To provide online consent, you will need:

- the link provided by the school
- your Service NSW log-in details
- medicare details for you and your child

Scan the QR code to give your consent now.

Year 7

- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTPa)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Year 10

- Meningococcal ACWY

For more information on vaccination visit: health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

November 2022 © NSW Health, SHPN (HP NSW) 221060. NSW Health

Welfare Team- Professional Learning

Resilience Project Teacher Seminar

On Thursday 8 June, teachers from the Welfare Team attended The Resilience Project Seminar at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. Teachers engaged with a range of activities that practice Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness. With a strong focus on Emotional Literacy and Connections, teachers were inspired by the talks of Hugh van Cuylenburg (founder of The Resilience Project) and Martin Heppell (Parent Educator and Consultant). This professional learning

development was specifically designed by educators, for teachers to equip them with strategies to improve students' mental health and to also look after their own wellbeing, ultimately leading to better versions of ourselves and sustaining positivity and happiness in our everyday lives.

This is the third year that we have been working with the Resilience Project at Birrong Girls High School. This program aims to inspire and engage the whole school, both students and staff through evidence based positive mental health strategies of exercising Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness. We continue to look forward to working with The Resilience Project Team in Terms 3 and 4.



Welfare Team Teachers- Ms Wright, Ms Petrovska, Ms Mezzino, Ms Rilkovski and Ms Baddah together with Hugh van Cuylenburg, Founder of The Resilience Project



Welfare Team Teachers- Ms Mezzino, Ms Rilkovski, Ms Wright, Ms Petrovska and Ms Baddah together with Martin Heppell

Optus Digital Thumbprint

Optus Digital Thumbprint Workshops

On Tuesday 18 July, Years 8, 9 and 10 students participated in the Digital Thumbprint workshops. These workshops are specifically designed to support and educate young people how to be safe, responsible, and positive online, as this is a key challenge for educators and parents alike. Recently the team from the Optus Digital Thumbprint program were in the classroom with our students taking them through the fun and interactive workshops that cover a range of

important issues such as cyberbullying, digital discernment, and digital identity.

It is very important to be aware of these topics so that your child is prepared and supported to thrive in the digital world. There is a range of free, downloadable Digital Thumbprint Parent Conversation Guides for parents and caregivers that support you to have effective conversations around what young people should and shouldn't share online, cyberbullying, and how digital technology can support effective study practices. To support this initiative and program, parents can obtain access to a variety of resources at home: Please visit: www.digitalthumbprint.com.au/parent-resources



Optus Digital Thumbprint Workshop

We would like to thank our facilitator, Emily Ryan, who delivered highly engaging and important material to our students. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for supporting our students in these workshops and thank you to our Years 8, 9 and 10 students who demonstrated exemplary behaviour and engagement throughout the workshops. We hope that you can take on board the strategies outlined to ensure that your safety is your highest priority.

Ms Violeta Rilkovski
Relieving Head Teacher Female Students



SCIENCE UPDATE

YEAR 12 BIOLOGY EXCURSION

All Year 12 Biology students went on an excursion to the Museum of Human Disease located at the University of New South Wales on Tuesday 18 July.



The students listened to a presentation where they learned about some key diseases of the body and saw firsthand their effect on body organs like the liver and arteries. They were then able to explore the museum and observe samples of diseased body parts. Their work booklet guided them to find out more about the diseases that caused changes in organs to better support their learning of Module 7 Infectious Diseases and Module 8 Non-infectious Diseases and Disorders.

The students had the opportunity to explore the university and get a feel of university life. All students found the experience fascinating and hopefully we have some future practitioners in the health sciences field.

YEAR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION

All Year 11 Biology students attended a mandatory fieldwork excursion on Friday 21 July. They travelled with their teachers to Buffalo Creek Reserve and bushwalked into the Lane Cove National Park. Students stopped at two different sites on Sugarloaf Hill to take abiotic and biotic measurements of the ecosystem.

They observed bandicoot and wallaby scratches as well as a range of invertebrates from the leaf litter. They used a range of equipment to take measurements of the wind, slope, light and temperature from different places in the environment. Students also used resources to identify the different types of vegetation they could find in the bush.

The group enjoyed having their lunch down by the river where they saw crabs and learned about interactions between native and invasive species in the National Park. At the end of the day, they rested up on the bus trip home to take in all the great experiences that they had.

We thank Ms Georgiou for organising the excursion for the students and the teachers who attended on the day. Hopefully some of the students will be inspired to be future ecologists.



Suzanne and Dana taking measurements of soil temperature



Rihanna and Jana studying wallaby scratchings



Ceren, Jamilah and Deyana working to identify invertebrates found in the leaf litter



Ceren and Maya using a segmented quadrat to estimate the leaf litter coverage alongside the walking track

By: Science Faculty

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM TRANSDEV NSW BUSES

On Saturday 5 August 2023, Transdev NSW will cease bus operations in your school area.

Transit Systems NSW Pty Ltd will commence operations on Sunday 6 August 2023.

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR For your diary / noticeboard

August:

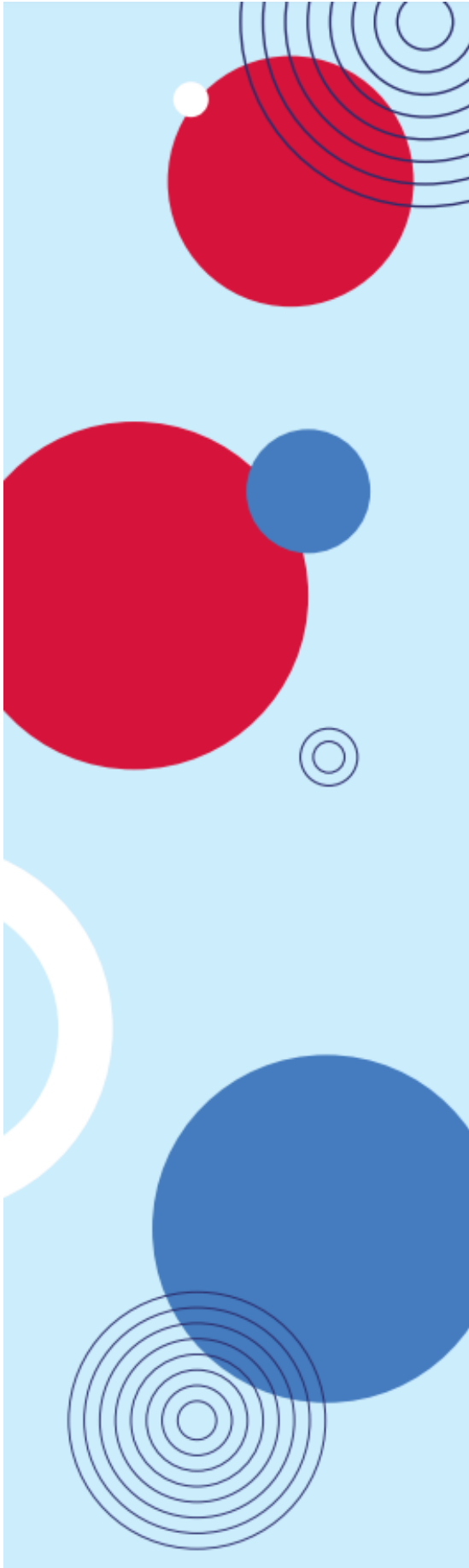
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|--|---|
| Saturday, 12 th | ▪ Zonta Birthing Kits assembly session, 9am – 12pm |
| Monday, 14 th to Friday, 25 th | ▪ Year 12 Trials |
| Wednesday, 16 th | ▪ Year 8 Field Day, Condell Park ▪ P&C meeting, onsite, 5pm |
| Friday, 18 th | ▪ Premier's Reading Challenge ends today. Successful PRC students will receive a certificate. |

CBCA Book Week 2023: 19-25 August Mr Davidson will be running a competition with lots of prizes!

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Friday, 25 th | ▪ Year 8 Scripture commences |
| Monday, 28 th August to Friday, 8 th September | ▪ Year 11 Final Exams |
| Wednesday, 30 th August | ▪ CAPA Extravaganza, 3-5pm |

September:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Thursday, 21 st | ▪ Year 12 Graduation at Bankstown Sports Club, 10:30am |
| Friday, 22 nd | ▪ Last day of Term 3 |



Ed2023 Week

Learning
Celebrating
Embracing

31 July – 4 August

education.nsw.gov.au/edweek

175
YEARS

Public Education
in NSW



children's Festival



25 years of Building Harmony and Celebrating Diversity starting with Children



The Children's Festival is a wonderful celebration of the many cultures in Australia, encouraging our children along with their family and friends to share with one another, to respect differences and to create a harmonious society. It brings people of all ages and cultures together as one.

It allows communities from many different backgrounds to share their cultural treasures and make big contributions to the broader culture of Australia.



At the Children's Festival, children play together, showcase their talent, make new friends, learn new things and enjoy other cultures. Those who play together learn how to live together for life.

In the last 25 years, around a quarter of a million children and their families and friends have participated in the 39 annual Children's Festivals across Sydney.

Celebrating 25th Anniversary

children's festival



Canterbury-Bankstown Children's Festival 2023 Poster Design Competition

Theme:

“Children of all Cultures playing together”



Entry:

- Send your Entries on A4 Landscape Sheets to:

Children's Festival Organisation Inc.
14 McEvoy Road,
Padstow NSW 2211

- Write your full name, age, address, email, telephone number and school or group on the back of your Artwork

For further information, please contact:

info@childrensfestival.org.au

or visit our website:

www.childrensfestival.org.au

Entries close: Wednesday 23.08.2023

Categories:

- 9 Years old and under
- 10 to 13 years old

Prizes for each category:

- 1st Prize: \$100
- 2nd Prize: \$80
- 3rd Prize: \$60
- 4th Prize: \$40
- 5th Prize: \$20

Prizes announced:

Canterbury-Bankstown Children's Festival 2023

Sunday, 17th September 2023

Gazzard Park, Cooper Road

Yagoona, NSW 2199

Celebrating 25th Anniversary

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ORGANISATION INC.

Web: <https://www.childrensfestival.org.au> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensFestivalOrganisationInc>
Background photo credit: VectorStock 1441455 Karinaa

Children's festival



Canterbury-Bankstown Children's Festival 2023

Writing Competition

Theme:

"Children's Festivals in the Future - what will they be like?"



Entry:

- To Enter, please write no more than 500 words to comment on the question above.
- Save the file and attach it to an email with your full name, age, email address, telephone number and send to:
info@childrensfestival.org.au

For further information, please contact:
info@childrensfestival.org.au

Entries close: Wednesday 23.08.2023

Participants:

- Children from 11 to 13 years old

Prizes for each category:

- 1st Prize: \$150
- 2nd Prize: \$120
- 3rd Prize: \$100
- 4th Prize: \$70
- 5th Prize: \$50

Prizes announced:

Canterbury-Bankstown Children's Festival 2023

Sunday, 17th September 2023

Gazzard Park, Cooper Road

Yagoona, NSW 2199

Celebrating 25th Anniversary

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ORGANISATION INC.

Web <https://www.childrensfestival.org.au> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensFestivalOrganisationInc>

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