



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrongo 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 4

June 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

The term has flown, and we are now busily preparing for all the activities that culminate at the end of term.

### Parent/Teacher Afternoon

While we recognise that the last week of term is leading into Eid for many of our families, it is vital parents and carers attend Parent Teacher afternoon on Monday 26 June to pick up their child's report and speak with their teachers. On average, each report is a compilation of 6-7 hours' worth of labour to produce. It is an important document capturing the progress of your child, reflecting their effort, attitude and overall commitment to their studies.

The key messages to all parents about the overall progress of students currently, are these:

Do not have short memories. It was not long ago when you were concerned about your child being at home for extended periods of time and how this was going to impact on their learning and future.

There have been lost hours for most students because of what has befallen society over the past three-four years.

We desperately need parents and carers to support the work schools are doing to establish routines, work ethic and overall learning. There are two main hinderances to student progress.

#### 1. Student attendance

Students who are not at school every day lose valuable learning time that they cannot afford to lose. Every day you allow your child to miss, impacts on their overall outcomes, success and future earning capacity. None of our students can afford this. Please ensure that your child attends school every day.

#### 2. Addiction to devices and social media

Students who cannot function unless they are in their room on a device and/or always on their phone are not healthy. The lack of sleep, inability to concentrate and overall aggressive and hostile behaviour is fuelled

by this. The majority of young people are addicted to their devices and spend ridiculous amounts of time scrolling, engaging in dangerous and inappropriate conversations and being exposed to inappropriate content.

Parents and carers can support their child's success at school by enforcing more appropriate routines at home. Young people do not need access to their phones or devices 24 hours a day and all activity should be within view. How often does your child read daily? How often does your child practice and revise core skills? How often does your child exercise? If you set yourself the task of comparing how much time your child does a range of activities compared to the time they spend online, you would be shocked. Please remember that you can control all of this with adjustments to home routines.

### What are your children learning?

There has been some panic and misinformation promoted in various pockets of the broader community over the past few months about what students are being taught in schools.

I would like to encourage parents to seek to understand before they become agitated or upset about what their children are being exposed to.

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The two key places of learning are at home and school. The BEST way to learn is through a partnership between the two. What SHOULD happen is that students engage in the DoE curriculum and are exposed to a breadth of knowledge, understanding and experiences. Students should then go home and discuss ideas and issues they have been exposed to. Parents should then take this opportunity to draw connections between what students are learning and their own personal values, traditions, cultural and religious practices. Ignorance is not the answer. Avoiding topics is not the answer. To be productive and successful citizens, we must always come from a place of information. Solid knowledge is the foundation upon which we can stand firmly in developing our identity and position of who we are and what our place and purpose is in the world.


I would like to remind all parents that any study and statistic you draw from will confirm that young people are drawing their information about the world from one predominant source- it is not you and it is not school- it is the internet. It is essential you monitor your child's use of devices and access to online programs. It is also essential that you have trust in the NSW DoE curriculum. If you have concerns, we encourage you to make an appointment to discuss them.

I would also like to remind parents that BGHS is comprised of incredibly dedicated staff who have one purpose in their work- they have dedicated their lives to developing other people's children so they can be as successful as possible when they become adults. We are partnering with YOU to prepare them for life. We are working with you and for you, not against you.

I wish all our families a restful break during the school holidays.

I wish all our families who are celebrating, a Eid Mubarak.

Warmest regards,  
Zena Dabaja  
Principal



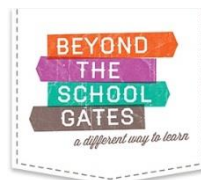
**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

**Parents are invited to attend the  
P & C MEETING  
at Birrong Girls High School  
on Wednesday 16 August 2023  
at 5pm**

**Please register your attendance by phoning the  
school office**

## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Student engagement and connectedness to school are closely linked to the range of activities and experiences students can and do access as well as the students' feeling of success within the classroom and the school environment.



It has been a very busy term with the athletics carnival, representation at the Zone Cross Country carnival and the increase in the number of excursions which all add to the rich learning experiences available for students. Half yearly reports will this year be issued at the Parent / Teacher session. The parent / teacher afternoon is on Monday 26 June from 2.30pm – 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there as you collect your daughter's report and take the opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress with her teachers.

The school is undertaking a wonderful social justice initiative again this year, The Refugee Ration Challenge, for Refugee Week, 18 - 24 June, in which teachers and students eat like a Syrian refugee. The box contains just a small amount of rice, flour, lentils, chickpeas, beans, fish and oil. It was quite a shock for us to see how little food is provided to refugees and reminds us of how fortunate we are to be living in a land of plenty. The money we raise will provide food, medicine and education for refugees and will also go a long way to support other communities around the world threatened by conflict and disaster. Our small part in this global challenge showed what a big heart our Birrong community has. We hope our school community will support all those undertaking the challenge and donate to this worthy cause. To donate, please go to the SCHOOLS page of the Ration Challenge website at [schools.rationchallenge.org.au](http://schools.rationchallenge.org.au), type in Birrong Girls High School and choose someone to sponsor. Every donation changes someone's life. 'We raised \$12800 last year – what can we raise this year?!



Reports were distributed to Year 12 at the start of Week 7. Most reports acknowledge what students have achieved and importantly include advice from teachers about what students can do to continue to improve in the course. Students should take note

of the advice and build it into their study routine. Year 12 students selected a mentor with the support of their Year Advisers, Ms Wright and Ms Shinas, during Term 4 2022. Students are taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with their mentors to talk about their progress and the way they are feeling about their study. Good preparation is important but, so too, is good health. As parents/carers, you play a vital role in your child's success. Ask about their progress. Ask how they are feeling. Ask if there is anything you can do to help. Encourage them to go for a walk. Even if they walk with their earphones in listening to study notes, at least they are getting some fresh air and exercise. Encourage them to sleep. Provide healthy meals. Sometimes it's enough for you to just be there for them. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent / Teacher afternoon on Monday 26 June from 2.30pm – 5.30pm.

Year 11 students are now more than halfway through their Preliminary HSC courses. During this time, teachers have been marking assessment (formative and summative) tasks and returning them to the students along with structured feedback that acknowledges achievement and provides advice to students about how they can realise their potential in each course. Reports are to be issued to parents on Monday 26 June from 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Please make sure you collect the report and book in teacher appointments with your daughter.

Year 10 students will be working with Ms Wailes and Ms Shinas in preparation for the selection of their 2024-2025 HSC courses. There will be numerous supporting activities to ensure the most appropriate course of study for each student is achieved, including a Subject Selection Market, Senior Course Information Sessions, Parent / Student / Teacher interviews, all supported by the Year 10 Careers lessons.

Year 10 students have completed their half-yearly exams and sat for their first attempt at Minimum Standard testing in Reading, Writing and Numeracy this term. This is a **requirement** for the award of the Higher School Certificate by the time students finish Year 12. Continued assessments will take place over the course of the year for students who have not yet met the required standard.

Year 9 highlights include that student Aurora B just came third in the 15 years race at the Sydney South West Cross Country Championships. Congratulations, Aurora! Several Year 9 students also represented the school at the Science and Engineering Challenge at the Lucas Heights Reactor, working through the challenges well.

Year 8 has begun Project 21 – building 21<sup>st</sup> century skills as they explore “*How can we make our community more sustainable?*”. This project is

about students thinking critically and creatively, working collaboratively (together) and learning to communicate effectively. Students have completed their three-day launch where they got to experience taster lessons about a broad range of sustainability topics and are working towards researching a chosen issue more deeply in small teams and coming up with a proposal to address the issue. We are looking forward to seeing their ideas in our showcase early next term!

Year 7 are looking forward to their Reptile Incursion on Thursday 22 June. This is a great incursion where the girls get to interact with reptiles from snakes of all sizes to lizards and more. They have also recently produced some incredible mixed media self portraits in Visual Arts – we have some very talented artists in our midst. You can check them out on the Birrong Girls HS Facebook Page.

A reminder to all students to collect class merits and trade them in with their allocated Deputy Principal for large achievement awards, medallions and school pins. School reports for Years 7-10 will be distributed at the Parent / Teacher session, Monday 26 June from 2.30pm – 5.30pm. We have a parent assembly planned for Monday 26 June. We welcome parents and carers of all our award recipients to share the celebration of student achievement followed by a morning tea.

During Term 3 we will be seeking the support of all parents to complete the ‘Tell Them from Me – Parent Survey’. The completed student surveys from Semester 1 (Term 2) will provide valuable information for us at the school. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to also inform the school of their positive feedback and any concerns related to their daughter's education and high school experiences. More information will be sent home as the survey period approaches.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Ms George, Ms Andrews and Ms Blue  
**Deputy Principals**

**More support**



Visit [ReachOut.com](https://ReachOut.com) for more mental health support or call:

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800
- Your GP

## WELFARE MATTERS

### Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the Australian Government's Privacy Policy (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the NCCD Portal <https://www.nccd.edu.au>

## Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Salam Bassal of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for May 2023. She has demonstrated strong leadership, citizenship, and commitment to the school community. Salam

is a conscientious and mature student with a positive attitude to her studies. She has demonstrated dedication and initiative in the SRC where she worked diligently to represent her fellow peers and has been elected to the Prefect body where she has dedicated her efforts for many fundraising events for worthy causes. Salam is a successful applicant for a 3-year leadership scholarship with ABCN where she participates in a program to improve her leadership capacity and skills.

Out of school, Salam is an active member of the community, and she volunteers for the local Arabic School on Fridays and Saturdays where she supports children with their development. Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in Education to pursue a career in primary school teaching to assist in the enrichment and education of future generations. She aims to travel throughout the Middle East to learn more about her culture and heritage and wants to also gain knowledge about the history and origins of different cultural practices and places.



Congratulations to Carmen Lau of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for June 2023. She has demonstrated commitment, citizenship and leadership in our school community. Carmen has shown commitment through

her involvement in various programs and teams over the years. She has been a dedicated member of the Social Justice Team, a Library Monitor and a supportive and enthusiastic Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students transitioning into high school. She demonstrates leadership and cooperation as a member of the School Prefect Body, participating in various fundraising projects and events. Carmen has participated in the UNSW Gateway program and in the WSU Fast Forward program gaining valuable insights and knowledge about university life.

Out of school, Carmen enjoys cooking for family members and for neighbours in the community. Her

future goal is to attend university to complete a Bachelor of Business at the University of NSW. She wants to make a positive contribution to society and work to support and benefit others. She aims to volunteer to assist communities in the rural areas of developing countries.

### School Vaccinations

The next school vaccinations are scheduled on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 for Year 7 and Year 10 catch ups. This is our last visit for this year where Year 7 will receive Dose 2 of the HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) and Year 10 a single dose of Meningococcal ACWY vaccine if they were absent at the last visit on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

If you have not yet provided consent, parents are able to register their consent online.

### How to provide consent:

1. To complete online consent for your child's school vaccinations, visit:

<https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school>

Or use the QR code in the image below.

2. Follow the steps to log in to your existing Service NSW account. This is the same account you may already use to renew your driver's licence. If you don't have a Service NSW account, refer to Service NSW to create one.
3. Update or confirm your personal details in Service NSW 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

Ms Salvagio

**Head Teacher Female Students**

**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](https://health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination)

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### ABCN FOCUS PROGRAM 2023



A group of Year 11 students applied to participate in an ABCN program called Focus which was run with global engineering firm WSP, whose aim is to promote and increase the number of women in the corporate workplace. The group was tasked to bring in a photo of a woman who inspires us prior to the first Zoom call. Examples included Emma Watson as she is a women's rights activist and is involved with the UN. Oprah Winfrey was discussed because she was an advocate for making women's stories known to the world and having women in power. We then split into groups and joined a Zoom call where we talked with Pav and each took turns discussing each other's

inspirations, most commonly were mothers and grandmothers. Our next task was to talk about certain characteristics in ourselves that we believe are important qualities to have. These qualities were shared with our mentors who joined the call and would take us into breakout rooms to discuss issues in the workplace. The outcome of the first Zoom call was very successful as each group had the opportunity to talk with mentors who are professional in their field of work and promoting women in leadership roles which everyone enjoyed.

The second session was all about time management skills we have acquired and how we can improve our schedules to ensure adequate time for more important activities. Via Zoom, we split off into our breakout rooms and discussed with our mentors about all of our skills used for time management. Our mentors talked through their daily schedules and the time that they would allocate for self-care, family time, work time and other important aspects of their time management skills. We each went over our personal tips for time management and included procedures that we would undertake to maintain good allocation of our time in our daily schedules. We then continued our conversations to discuss our most prominent strengths that we could implement into this program and bring to the group. Some of us had the skills of working well in a group settings, others had good listening skills and creative thinking, which all in all allowed us to work well in our small groups. We then came back together to discuss what we had learnt from our mentors and the skills that our group could acquire to complete the program. Eagerly, we said our final goodbyes excited for the next session to meet our mentors in person and have discussions in the corporate environment.

Having our third session in person, we went to the city to further communicate and finish our program. The building had a large workspace where we all sat and listened to Pav introduce us and provide some background information around WSP. We listened to her as she explained the idea that failure is a part of success and referenced many famous women as examples. In our groups we had to look back on what we wanted to improve in our schedule and present it either in a mind map or dot points to get our ideas across. We finally met our mentors during lunch and discussed women in the workplace. These questions ranged from 'why women should be in the workplace?' to 'what could stop them?'. After thorough discussions in our groups and then sharing our ideas, we had a firm understanding of the role of leadership and how important it is for women in the workplace to have these roles. To finish off the day we each received a certificate in our groups and stood up and talked about what we learnt and valued out of these sessions and how they've enhanced us as young women.

By: Yosra Nouredine and Breanna Leha, Year 11

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

**June:**

- Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Parent Assembly for students receiving awards, 8:30am, Hall
  - Parent/Teacher Afternoon 2:30pm – 5:30pm
- Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Zone Athletics, The Crest
- Friday, 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Last day of Term 2

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Enjoy the school holidays!

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**July:**

- Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>
  - School Development Day for staff only
- Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>
  - All students return to school
  - Year 10 Subject Market meeting for students after assembly
- Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Year 10 Subject Market for students, p1-4
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Subject Selection Information Session, p5 for Year 10 students and parents

**July/August:**

- Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August
  - Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement
- Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July to Friday, 4 August
  - EDUCATION WEEK
- August:**
  - Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Year 12 Trials
  - Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Year 8 Field Day, Condell Park
    - P&C meeting, onsite, 5pm
  - Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Year 8 Scripture commences

**CBCA BOOK WEEK 2023**

19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

This year's theme is: Read, Grow, Inspire.  
Mr Davidson will be running a competition with lots of prizes.





## PROGRAMS



**LOWER  
PRIMARY**  
(5-7 years)



**UPPER  
PRIMARY**  
(8-11 years)








**SECONDARY**  
(12-17 years)



**Sydney Education and Adoption Centre**  
201 Rookwood Road, Yagoona NSW 2199

### Sessions include:

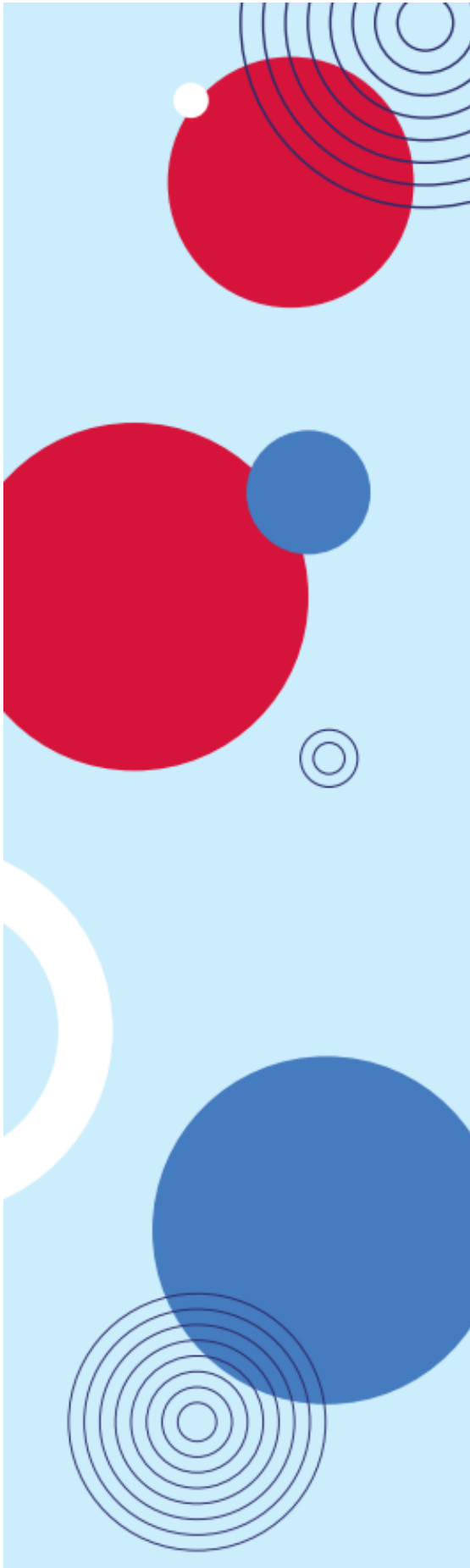
-  A behind-the-scenes tour of our shelters
-  Making enrichment toys
-  Meeting a variety of shelter animals
-  Talks from various roles at RSPCA NSW
-  Exploring how our Inspectors perform rescues and enforce the law

SCAN ME



### RSPCA NSW Education Team

📞 02 9782 4478    ✉ [education@rspcansw.org.au](mailto:education@rspcansw.org.au)  
🌐 <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/education/>



# Ed2023 Week

**Learning  
Celebrating  
Embracing**

31 July – 4 August

[education.nsw.gov.au/edweek](http://education.nsw.gov.au/edweek)

**175**  
YEARS

Public Education  
in NSW

