

# Blakehurst High School

## Your Outstanding Local Comprehensive Secondary School

### Term 1 Update – February 2015.

*From the Principal*

#### Welcome to a New School Year

To all our families, especially those new to Blakehurst High, we extend a warm welcome to the 2015 school year. We hope this year will be a successful and productive one for all.

At Blakehurst High we want all students to succeed, to achieve their best, whatever that may be. Staff at Blakehurst High are committed to continual improvement in all aspects of teaching and learning, in order to maximise the educational opportunities for our students.

Of course student outcomes are enhanced when we receive support from home and we work together towards this aim. I thank you for this support.

#### Staff Changes

The 2015 school year will see just a few staff changes. On the Science staff we welcome back Ms Dawn Rajcewski who replaces Mr Baker, who was promoted to Head Teacher Science at GRC Hurstville Boys, and Ms Alexandra Jarman who replaces Ms Fabrizio, whilst on maternity leave. Ms Stephanie D'Arcangeli has joined the LOTE faculty. Mr Anthony Jenkins and Mr Alex Digiacomo join the Learning and Support Team in 2015, replacing Ms Cheryl Hudspeth. In the HSIE faculty, Mr Petros Goudis replaces Ms Sarah Butler who has taken a further 6 months LWOP. I am sure you will all join me in warmly welcoming the new staff to Blakehurst High School as well as wish all outgoing staff the very best in their future endeavours.

#### Fabulous HSC Results

The whole staff was very excited with the excellent HSC results received by Blakehurst High students in 2014, the best we have achieved for years. On the School rankings compiled by the SMH, BHS rated the best performing Comprehensive school in the St. George and Sutherland areas, and was ranked 20 in all of NSW – a fantastic effort. Congratulations to all students. Of course these great results are not possible without a lot of hard work from both staff and students.

I have included some of the highlights below:

Top ATAR – Matthew Fong achieved an ATAR of **98.10** (n.b. – max ATAR possible is 99.95)

Other notable ATARs (that we knew of as at the 29/1/15) included;

- Kevin Nguyen – 97.9
- Dylan McCuaig-Walton – 97.8
- Maddie Fitzmaurice – 96.9
- Jason Cheung – 96.85
- Katerina Markovska – 96.7
- Monique Holden – 96.25
- Garry Xu – 95.65
- Alex (AW) Chen – 95.8
- Brian Leong – 95.45
- Nikole Gorscak – 94.85
- Kamal Marfatia – 94.45
- Ricky Yu – 92.6
- Michelle Steffe – 91.45
- Yukun Cao – 89.65
- Kristina Markovska – 89
- Cecilia wong – 87.1
- Sarah Irving – 86.75
- Emmanuel Fradilakis – 85
- Ken Khamhing – 84.80
- Adam Craig – 81.1

HSC All-round Achievers List - Matthew Fong gained Band 6 in all their 10 units. **Honour roll - 85** students in **26** subjects (an increase of 41% from 2013) named on the State Merit list. In Extension courses there were **13 top Band 4 results**.



Band 4 results in Extension courses included **10** in Mathematics Extension 1 (top mark was 95%), **1** in Extension 2 (top mark was 91%), **1** in Japanese extension (top mark was 90%), **1** in Modern Greek Extension (top mark was 94%).

In 2 unit courses there were **73 top Band 6 results**

There were a total of **268 Band 5's** across the school in all subjects (a 10% increase on 2013).

Of course exam results are not the only measure of success. Just to receive the HSC was an outstanding achievement for many. For these students and for those who were supported into traineeships and apprenticeships, much of their success was due to the excellent work of our support and teaching staff. Well done all!

### Parents and Citizens Association

Our P&C meet the second Wednesday of each month in the school Common Room at 7pm. All parents are encouraged to attend and learn more about, as well as support your school. The next meeting, which will also be the Annual General Meeting is:

**Wednesday the 11th of March,  
All Welcome!**

### 2015 Student Advisers

Hopefully all students have settled down to work and are enjoying their learning and time at school. If parents do have any concerns however, your child's student adviser is the first point of contact. I have listed the 2015 Student Advisers below. Please ring the school to make an appointment to discuss any issues.

**Year 7** – Ms Nozica and Ms Grima

**Year 8** – Ms Camilleri and Mr Roff

**Year 9** – Ms Koutsoukos and Mr Van Munster

**Year 10** – Ms Wiryakusuma and Ms Pappas

**Year 11** – Mr Smith and Ms Berrett

**Year 12** – Ms Loizos and Ms Evangelinos

### 2015 School Fees

By now most of you would have received your 2015 school fee notice. Please assist your school by paying your child's school fees promptly so we can continue to provide a quality education for all.

### All fees paid directly benefit your children.

If there are any problems in paying fees in full (this can be done by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS), then they may be paid in instalments. Please contact the school's administration office to organise.

In cases of financial hardship, please contact me or the School Administration Manager, Ms Morris.

<b>Blakehurst High School</b>	
<b>PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ONLY</b>	
Student Name: _____	Roll Class: _____
Payment For: _____	
PAYMENT DETAILS: {Please tick on box}	
Please debit my credit card for \$ _____	
Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>
Name on Card: _____	
Card Number: _____	
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	
Expiry Date: _____ / _____	Signature: _____
<i>(Receipt will be sent home with student)</i>	

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT WITH THEIR LEARNING

Whilst parents are often involved in their teenager's sporting, musical or dramatic activities, parental support on the sidelines of their adolescent child's studies can be also be beneficial, particularly to academic performance. Research shows that children are more likely to succeed if parents are involved in their learning. Hendersen and Mapp (2002) found that 'the more families support their children's learning and educational progress, the more their children tend to do well in school and continue their education'.

### Strategies for Parents to help their secondary school aged students achieve their potential:

- **WORK ENVIRONMENT**

The obvious logistical support is providing a quiet, open space with few distractions for working at home. Involve your student in creating this space. Workspace tools for effective learning include a desk, ergonomic chair, a noticeboard and good lighting, as well as a shelf or drawers for folders, reference books and non-essential work. Spending time to discuss options, alternatives and reasons for establishing a dedicated work area is valuable.

- **BREAKFAST**

Importantly students need to start the day with a nutritional breakfast, as this will increase energy, attention, concentration and memory, particularly if the breakfast includes grains, fibre, protein and is low in sugar. Parents can facilitate this good start to the day as part of the daily routine. Similarly, nutritious snacks and lunch will enable the student to remain more focused throughout the day.

- **ORGANISATION**

A calendar for each term should be created and displayed near your student's desk and in prominent thoroughfares in the home, such as the kitchen. The calendar or term planner should include: all co-curricular and social activities, as well as assignment, assessment or test dates. This helps the student see the big picture of commitments and not simply a weekly or daily vision as school diaries or digital devices usually allow. The student, and parent, can clearly see when heavy workload periods occur, and social activities can be tailored to ensure work has a priority. It's a good idea to sit down with your student every couple of days to discuss the schedule ahead, when the work can be slotted in, and how a parent could help by reducing family commitments, or by setting boundaries with social engagements. Regularly sitting down to discuss workloads and tasks due, reviewing activities and schedules can help students learn to be more productive and organised.

- **FILING SYSTEMS**

Master folders should be set up for each subject at home, so after each topic is completed the notes can be placed in appropriate categories. This also gives students somewhere to file completed tests and assignments. Most students carry their current notes to school each day, but naturally as the term and year progresses it's impossible (and risky if misplaced) to have all worknotes in one folder. Students may also need help organising the files on their computers and devices (although it is likely that many students know more about this than their parents!).

- **ROUTINES**

Helping your student to establish routines can add an element of calm to each day. Simple routines such as having the school bag packed and uniform ready before going to bed each night, can eliminate unnecessary angst in the morning. A useful addition to the evening schedule is to determine the next afternoon's program: when homework and daily revision will be done around co-curricular activities, dinner etc. This can give a clear direction when your student comes home each day. Some students find that having regular times set aside for schoolwork each day helps them to develop a routine of working. Other students will need to make a plan each afternoon as their schedule changes each day.

- **TIMETABLE**

Know your student's timetable, so it's easy and relevant to ask "What were you doing in Science today?". A specific question can often open a conversation where your student not only shares but, in doing so, reinforces what was learned which increases memory (and understanding) of the lesson.

- **SUBJECTS**

Know your student's subjects, and become aware of the topics covered each year in those subjects. 'Improved educational outcomes result from a genuine interest and active engagement from parents' (OECD 2011), so knowing the topics could allow parents to expose students to different dimensions of the subject through film, books, contemporary issues, the Internet, exhibitions, travel etc. Students appreciate, perhaps subconsciously, that the parent is truly interested in their learning and *what* they are learning. Some schools will give students a course outline and the state's educational body will also have a website where parents should be able to access the syllabus (what will be taught) for each subject.

- **ASSIGNMENTS**

A helpful strategy is to keep abreast of when assignments are given. Talking to your student about assignment expectations, drawing out their understanding of the topic, criteria and parts of the assignment can instill a deeper appreciation. It's good to probe and ask more about the assignment topic with questions, as this could give your student other perspectives, and once more, help the student feel the parent has a real interest in learning. When planning the workload for an assignment, parents can help break the work into chunks or parts. This can reduce the sense of the overwhelming enormity of the task and the task can be broken into manageable parts, which are then scheduled to be done into the calendar or diary.

- **TESTS**

Similarly, parents can help students prepare for tests by quizzing them, asking for concepts to be explained or helping write practice tests. Explain to your student that memory and understanding can increase if the brain is using multiple processes to use information, such as writing, reading, speaking, drawing or singing! When tests are returned, focus on what was achieved and note concepts to revise. If students know parents are not solely focused on the grade, but also on the process, and that tests (and assignments) are tools to learn, intrinsic motivation can develop.

- **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There comes a time in secondary school when some co-curricular activities need to be cut for a period of time, as academic demands increase or the student is juggling too much. It's unlikely students will initiate severing an activity so it's generally up to parents. Students, like adults, can give more to an activity when there is time, and academic work needs to be one of the main priorities during the school terms. Parents will often be the first to notice when their student is over-loaded (and it varies for each individual), when school work is rushed or dismissed, when their student is tired or out-of-sorts, when they have no "downtime" on weeknights. Everyone needs *some* downtime, even if it is only for an hour of escapist freedom.

- **TECHNOLOGY**

Parents need to be the "bad cop" when it comes to limiting computer games, or other digital device activity. It is advisable that devices are not in bedrooms when students go to bed. However, rather than dictating the rule, parents should talk about the need for solid, sufficient sleep for the brain to re-wire neural pathways to consolidate the day's learning. Lack of sleep can lead to reduced concentration and attention span, delayed response time, and decreased short-term memory. Rules for technology (including TV viewing) should be developed together if possible so there is agreement about the approach.

- **COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL**

It's now fully acknowledged that together, parents and teachers play a dual role in educating students, so it's vital to maintain open communication with the school. It's important for parents to keep abreast of school information conveyed to through newsletters, school portals, emails and so on, as it's not uncommon for a student to miss information at school. This allows parents to flag or discuss with their student what the school is offering, advising or sharing. For example: a newsletter may alert parents to additional "maths tutorials" offered before school, or "homework help sessions" after school. This reinforces again that the parent *is* interested in their student's learning. It is equally important for parents to advise the school of extraneous issues happening at home, as this would give teachers an understanding of atypical behaviour, work ethic, concentration etc. An illness or death in the family (including a family pet), parent absence for more than a fortnight, or challenging issues on the home front, are examples of when parents should contact the school. Moderated assignments, extensions on homework, or relaxed detentions could result, and allow the student to resume their learning journey without additional stress. However secondary school students also need to gain skills and strategies to deal with life's variables, and to become independent, confident problem solvers. So it's also important for parents to give students opportunities to manage issues at school themselves. Parents should not approach the school to "fix" every minor problem, such as a student missing a page in an exam which lowered his grade, or a student feeling they had been maligned by a peer. Both these instances are life-lessons to learn from or solve, so parents should encourage students to ask for approach teachers themselves when needed.

*The strategies above should be developed with the child, and hopefully will be independently adopted by the student when they reach their final years at school. It's worthwhile noting that each point is related to the child's learning, as this sends a very positive message that the parent is engaged and interested in the learning process.*

[OECD 2011] PISA in Focus, (2011). *What can parents do to help their children succeed in school?.* [online] Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/49012097.pdf> [Accessed 2 Jan. 2015].

[Henderson and Mapp 2002] Henderson, A. & Mapp, K. (2002). A new wave of evidence. The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL). Available: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf> [Accessed 2 Jan 2015]

*Learn more this year about how students can improve their results and be more efficient and effective with their schoolwork by working through the units on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au). Our school's access details are:*

**Username:** blakehursths  
**Password:** 186 results

## PARENTS TIPS FROM THE DEC

### 2015 Homework Planner

Kids and families run more smoothly when there is a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips>

### Doing well in Class

Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one>

### Parents pool their tips

Ask your child to write all their teachers' names on their timetables and make a copy for the fridge. If they have a mobile phone, have them take a **photo of their timetables** so they have it with them all the time. Read more tips from experienced parents.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist>

### Benefits of team sports

If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/fitness/benefits-of-team-sports>

## THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the **Tell Them From Me** student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with 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 how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

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Blakehurst High School has recently purchased the **Skoolbag App** to allow us to communicate directly with you. It works for both smart phones and smart devices. Blakehurst High School Skoolbag App free to download will allow you to keep up-to-date with the following:

1. School events
2. School newsletters
3. School documents

It provides a link to our school website and allows you to contact the school directly.

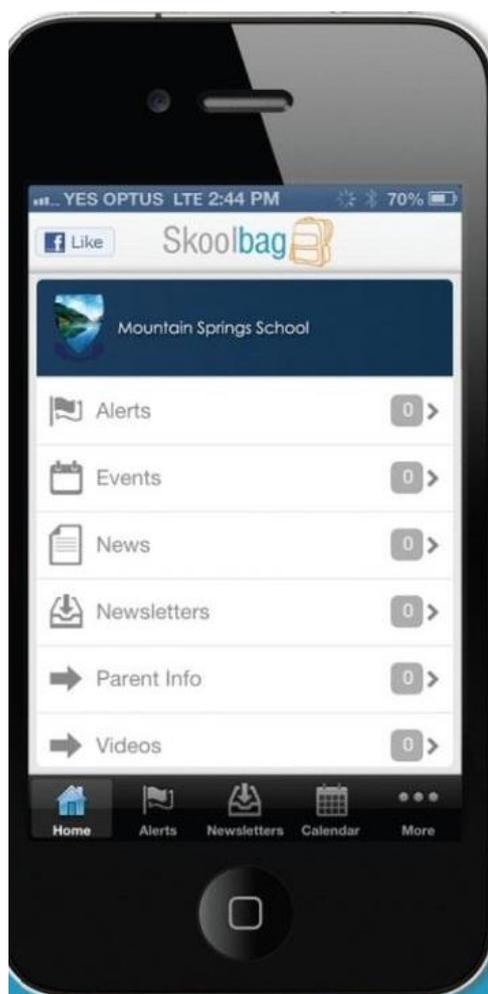
Please see the following information on how to download the app and set it up to receive the free notifications.



# How to Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

## iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device
2. Type your school name in the search, (using suburb name will help)
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "FREE" then "INSTALL"
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install"
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you



## Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, (using suburb name will help)
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search
4. Click the "install" button
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device)
6. Click "Open" when installed
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you



# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S *Report*

Welcome all, especially our new Year 7 cohort and families to the 2015 academic year. In our short time back it has been pleasurable to see how effortlessly our new students have transitioned into their classes and the high school environment.

## A few reminders of the expectations and procedures of the school:

- If your child is **ABSENT**, please ensure he/she has a note of explanation on the first day of return to school so the rolls are adjusted accordingly. These are legal documents and we appreciate your assistance in keeping them correctly updated.
- If your child is **LATE**, he/she is to proceed to the Print room where he/she will sign in and be given an entry pass to class. Once again, it's imperative the students follow this procedure to ensure attendance records are accurate.
- Upon enrolling in any school, families undertake to adhere to the rules of the school. We are a **UNIFORM** wearing school and therefore require our students to be in full and correct uniform each day. If your child is not correctly attired, he/she needs to bring a note from home and present it to the Year Advisor where he/she will be granted a pass for the day. If a student doesn't have a note, he/she will be issued with a detention.
- Students who **TRUANT** classes will be issued with a detention to make up the time. We urge parents to encourage their sons to refrain from truanting as it has enormous ramifications to the learning continuum.

**Detentions for persistent lateness, truancy and not being in correct uniform are held each Thursday from 3.00pm - 3.45pm and attendance is compulsory.**

We are holding our annual **Open Night on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** between 4.00pm & 5.30pm where we will welcome prospective students and their families and showcase the wonderful opportunities Blakehurst High School offers our students.

This event will be followed at 5.30pm by the annual meeting with guardians and caretakers of our **International Students**. We urge those who fall into this category to please attend as important information about the academic and attendance requirements of International Students will be relayed.

As we all look forward to another rewarding year at Blakehurst High School, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is more information required. By working together we can forge strong relationships so the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of our students is catered for.

## CAPA 'Column'



Welcome back to all students in 2015

Lights II

Camera II

Action II

**A very special welcome to all our new Year 7 students.**

The CAPA team is once again looking forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning. All of our students are very fortunate to be offered many opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities in the creative and performing arts.

### **MUSIC - CONCERT BAND**

The Concert Band has begun rehearsals – 23 February and each Monday afternoon from 3.00pm – 4.15pm in the school hall. We are always looking for new players – experienced players and beginners! So if you have or are able to play a band instrument please see Ms Jacobsen or just come along to our rehearsals on Monday afternoons!

### **STRING ENSEMBLE**

The senior group will commence rehearsals on Thursday 26 February 2015. All experienced string players are most welcome to join us. We have new repertoire and will be practicing for an assembly performance in Term 2.

### **STRING BEGINNERS (violin)**

Violin lessons have begun. The lessons are on Mondays during lunch and DEAR.

### **CHOIR**

BHS Choir will again be part of the Secondary Schools Choral Festival and participate in the In-Concert performance at the Sydney Town Hall in May 2015. We will be attending our first combined rehearsal on Wednesday 4 March at the Salvation Army Congress Hall. The combined choir will be singing with well known Australia composer and performer Lior, who will

workshop with the choir as well as perform in the concert at the Town Hall on 18 May. There are still a few places left in the choir group participating in the festival, so make sure you see Ms Jacobsen for more information if you would like to join us.

### **GUITAR LESSONS**

We have again engaged Mr Nick Watson to come to school each Friday to conduct small group guitar lessons. If you are interested in learning to play the guitar or you would like to extend your existing guitar skills, please see Ms Jacobsen for more information.

### **DRAMA**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our students in Drama. The school year has well and truly commenced and our Drama students have already started to sink their teeth into their forthcoming performance assessment tasks. On Friday 13 February, Year 12 Drama were lucky enough to attend 'OnStage', a performance evening at the Seymour Centre featuring outstanding individual and group performances from the 2014 HSC Drama examinations. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left with an array of interesting ideas to help with the creation of their own works in the coming term. Year 12 are also busily working on perfecting their Individual Performance monologues for the stage and will finalise the theoretical component of the HSC course in the coming weeks. I look forward to seeing what wonderful dramatic works will be produced in the coming term!

Also, I am proud to announce that the Blakehurst High School Junior Drama Club returns in 2015 and is currently open for business! All junior students are welcome to attend our regular gatherings, where you will have a chance to engage in exciting theatre sports and have a great deal of fun with your fellow peers! We meet in the Drama Room every Friday at lunchtime, so why not come along to our next meeting!! We would love to see you there!

Best wishes to all of our students engaged in Drama this year! It will certainly be an exciting journey together!

.....Mrs Shaw

### **VISUAL ARTS**

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Max Warlond, Year 12 2014 Visual Arts, on having his HSC Major artwork selected for exhibition at ARTEXPRESS, which is an annual series of exhibitions of exemplary artworks created by New South Wales Visual Arts students in the Higher School Certificate examination.

Max's major artwork was selected from the HSC Visual Arts candidature of approximately 9000. His drawings, entitled APOTHEOSIS, explore the power held within the cosmos, the military, nature, pop culture and spirituality. Each drawing is 60x170cm.

Fifty only artworks were selected for exhibition at The Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Art Centre at GyMEA. The exhibition will be on from 7 February – 22 March 2015.

Max's Artwork will be on display at the Hazelhurst Gallery at GyMEA from 7 February - 22 March.

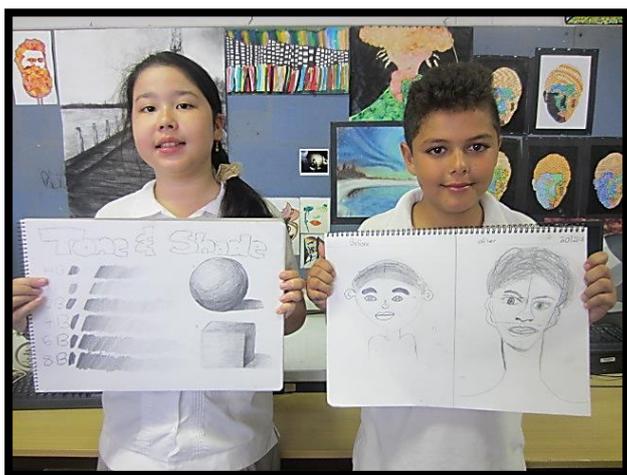
And ..... Congratulations also to Max's teacher, Ms Tanya Bourtsouklis! Well done!



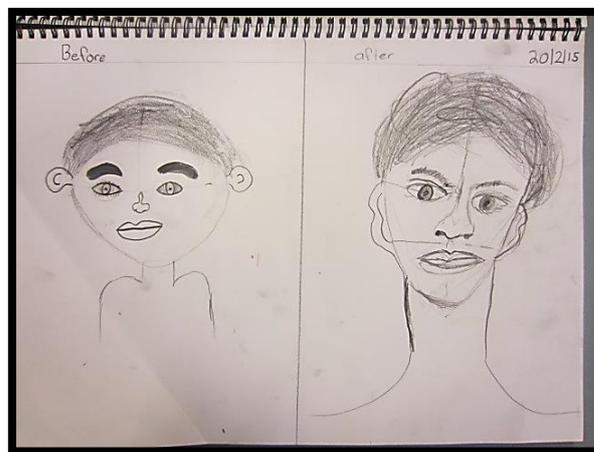
## YEAR 7 Visual Art 2015

### Year 7 Visual Arts

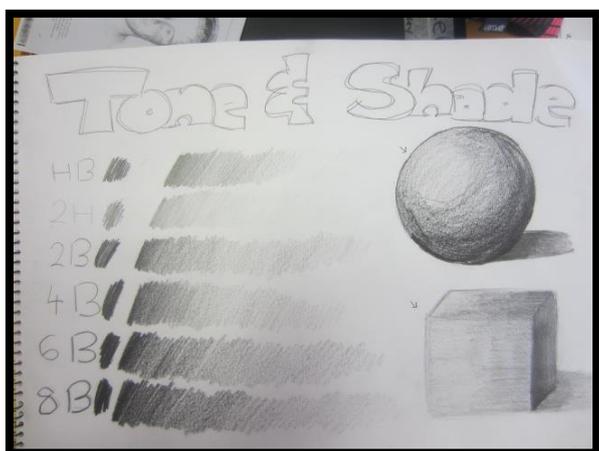
Year 7 seem to have settled in well this year. They have enjoyed a variety of lessons and exercises in Visual Arts. Some students are learning to draw using different grade pencils to make objects appear more 3D. Others are doing a Before and After exercise where they sketch a portrait from memory, unaided by the teacher. They then investigate proportions and features of the human face and sketch a portrait with guidance from their teacher. Its great fun to sit back and see the Before and the After results.



**Lili Pateman - Jayden Olivera**



**Before and After Sketches**



**Pencil Grades and 3D Drawing**

.....Ms Codex

## HSIE Roundup..

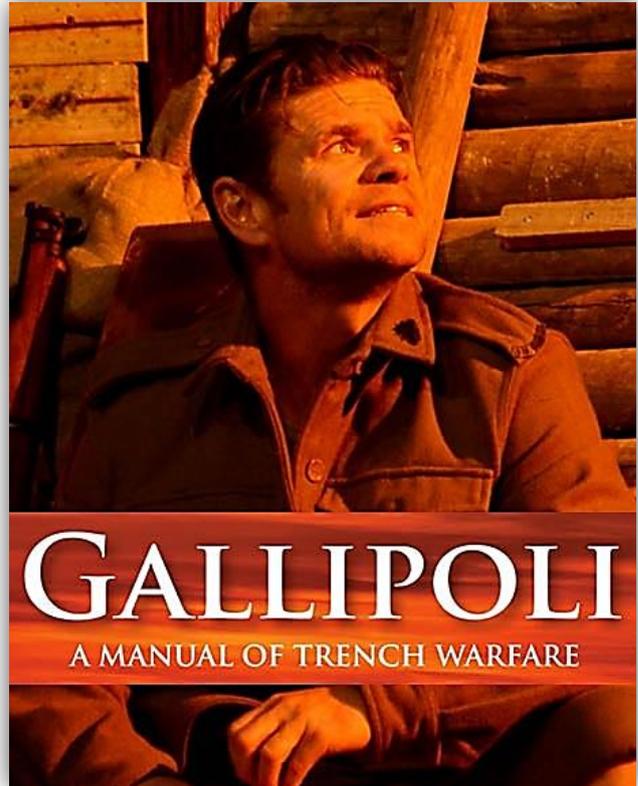
The start to 2015 has proven to be very smooth indeed. Miss Pappas as Relieving Head Teacher in Mr Slater's absence has done a fantastic job as has the whole team in getting classes settled and straight into their work. We welcome Mr Goudis this year who is replacing Miss Butler while she continues her overseas adventures. Mr Goudis is well acquainted with the school as an ex student and has developed an excellent rapport with his students. We also have Ms Ghosn back for 3 days a week this year which is a great addition to our team.

At this time Assessment notices have been distributed to a number of groups including Year 11 Business Studies and Year 9 History. These reminders are provided to students and follow the course outlines that all students in all years should have pasted into the front of their books.

All in HSIE wish students and parents a happy and productive year and look forward to many successes in 2015.

### ANZAC Day Production

As many of you are aware this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli in WW1. This is a significant event in Australia's history, and as such, we are going to host a special stage production in the hall "*Gallipoli – A Manual of Trench Warfare*". We intend to invite all of Year 9, who study WW1 as part of their curriculum, as well as the senior Modern History students to attend and some classes in Years 8 and 10.



1. The timing of the show fits perfectly with the ANZAC commemoration and will take place on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April. The production will run for 2 hours and will cost the students \$15. Notes will be coming out in the next week and students can pay at the front office; returning their permission notes to their class teacher.

### History /Geography Competitions

The annual National History and Geography competitions are on again. The Geography competition is going to happen in Week 6/7. These competitions are open to all students from Years 8 to 11 and are a great way to test general knowledge and skills. Certificates are awarded to all participants from 'Participation' to 'High Distinction'. These competitions are also an excellent way to achieve a level on the school's Merit Award Scheme. Notes will be distributed shortly with juniors being charged \$10 for both competitions.



This program has been running at Blakehurst High School for the past 6 years. It is for all Year 11 students and is a valuable program which looks at the rights and obligations that students are going to have when they get their licence and start driving. There are also a couple of very sobering presentations on the consequences of not following the rules and inappropriate behaviour behind the wheel of a car.

The program this year will take place on the 13th March. It is a full day with 6 separate presentations. Students need to be at school at 7.45am as per normal in full school uniform. They will be dismissed at the normal lunchtime around 1pm. The following brochure will provide more information. The cost is \$10.00 and needs to be paid to the front office by Monday the 9th March. Any queries can be directed to Mr Slater at the school.



Mr P Slater  
U-Turn the Wheel Coordinator/HSIE

## "U Turn the Wheel" Reduces Youth Road Toll

Since 2007 there have been many changes in NSW to the driving and licensing laws affecting young drivers, with these measures having immediate impact on young driver crash rates as shown below:



There has been an overall decrease in the crash rates of young drivers over the last five years. However, between 2009 and 2012 the casualty rate of 17-20 yr old drivers fell 49% in the Sutherland Shire LGA, compared to a 13% reduction across the Sydney Region.

All things being considered equal, one obvious difference between Sydney Region drivers aged 17-20 and those from the Sutherland Shire LGA, is the involvement of Sutherland Shire students in "U Turn the Wheel".



## Student Feedback

Students at each school are asked to evaluate the program. When asked "What have you learned today?" students responses have included:

*Our choices affect our future  
It's really easy to lose your licence  
Don't be an idiot*

*When you're driving, just drive - don't text, don't speed,  
and wear seatbelts*

*All our decisions are our choices  
There are big consequences to our decisions  
Follow the law and you keep your licence*

The underlying theme promotes students taking individual responsibility for the choices that they make as drivers.



The "U Turn the Wheel" program is a one-day in-school program delivered to Year 11 students, young drivers who are just starting their driving experience.

The program reinforces the messages that parents are trying to get their young drivers to heed - that the decisions and actions made by drivers on the roads are their responsibility alone, and can often lead to unforeseen and tragic consequences.

For information and bookings contact  
Rotary Coordinator: Martin Tabone  
Email: [utw@bigpond.com](mailto:utw@bigpond.com)



[www.rotary.org.au](http://www.rotary.org.au)  
1300 361 130



### Keeping Your L's and P's

Local Highway Patrol Officers discuss the methods and consequences of enforcement.



There is a strong focus on identifying risk-taking behaviour, such as speeding, using mobile phones, and the penalties for these offences.

### Buying a Safe Used Car

The NRMA Motoring and Services Roadside Assist Officers give advice on how to buy a used car and the things to look out for. The session includes a hands-on session which covers basic car maintenance.



### Driving Blind

Youth peer presenters run an interactive session on managing distractions. The presenters discuss the real-life consequences of being involved in a crash. The main goal is identifying potential in-car distractions and talking about how best to deal with them.



### Picking Up the Pieces

NSW Ambulance Service present on the results of crashes and how driver attitudes affects crash risk. The theme of personal choice is integral. The Paramedics have extensive personal experience at crash scenes and the students are always interested in what causes crashes and how they can be avoided.



### Being Fit to Drive

Students learn that there is no "safe" amounts of drugs or alcohol. Includes how different



substances can impair driving ability, the rate that young bodies process alcohol, as well as the importance of having a "getting home safely" plan.

### New Driver Survivor

Emphasise the hazards, distractions and risks that challenge safe driving outcomes. Discussion occurs based on the types of decisions made and skills and techniques needed to avoid crashes, within various crash scenarios.



# SRC Report

- Term 1 2015



We would like to welcome everyone back to the 2015 school year.

We already had a busy start to the year welcoming new members to the SRC team and farewelling our former President, Caitlin Su, who joined another high school. Our new committee members are as below.

We began our fundraising for the year with the sale of Zinc at the recent Swimming Carnival. Students decorated themselves with zinc stripes in the colours of their house. Again, that was a huge success and thank you team for the good work. We were able to raise money for future projects for our school.

Thank You Mrs G.Ware, Mr A.Jenkins

**President - Caitlin Su**

**Vice President - Jasmine Lu**

**Secretary - Meggie Yao**

**Publicity Officer - Mandy Ruan**

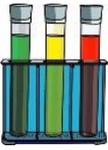
**Photographer - Brianna Fitzmaurice**

**Treasurer - Jessica Jiang**



Mrs Ware/Mr Jenkins  
SRC Coordinators

## News from SCIENCE



# Welcome Year 7 and All New Students!



The Science faculty would like to extend a warm welcome to all Year 7s and new students. Starting high school, or switching schools is a big experience and it often takes time to settle in. We hope all students are enjoying their Science classes and learning lots!

### Science Staff

Following the promotion of Mr Shane Baker, at the end of last year, and Ms Deborah Fabrizio taking three terms Maternity leave, the faculty welcomes two temporary teachers to the staff. Ms Jarmen who will be taking Ms Fabrizio's classes and Ms Rajcevski who will be looking after Mr Baker's classes until a new, permanent teacher is appointed later in the semester.

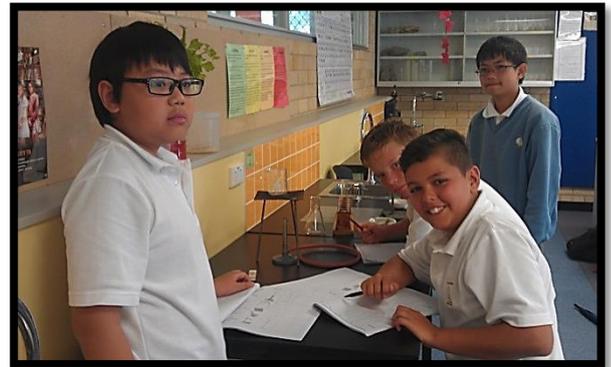
### Essential Secondary Science Assessment Results (ESSA)

Earlier this month, the ESSA results were distributed to this year's Year 9 students. As a Year 8 cohort, these students sat the electronic exam last November. Overall, the results were very pleasing, and an improvement on previous years. Band 6 is the highest possible score. Some notable achievements were as follows:

**Band 6** - Michael Barba Inwood, Trevor Chen, Nicole Harrington, Ria Stephenson

**Band 5** - Lachlan Chan, Chysanthi Diasinos, Andrew Hung, Sally Ibrahim, Leah Ingram-Brouwer, Bowie Lee, Jordan Liang, Alifa Monjur, Ahmad Oliek, Brandon Tong, Nehal Usman, Orvella Winatra, Kathy Xu, Jack Zhao.

**Well done to all students!!**





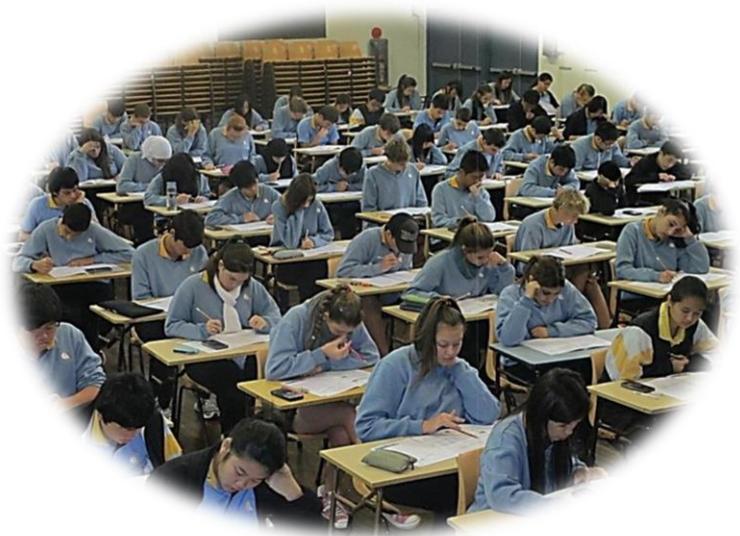
In 2015, science students at Blakehurst High School will again be provided with the opportunity to sit for the ICAS Science Competition—an annual event set and marked by UNSW, and which tests students from across the globe on a wide range of scientific and process-related skills.

Students participating in the competition will receive comprehensive individualised reports highlighting particular strengths and weaknesses in the subject. The feedback will also help teachers modify/refine existing programs to better suit the cohort's specific needs.

- ◆ The sitting date is **Wednesday June 3**. The exam will be held in the **school Hall Periods 1 or 2**.
- ◆ The competition is open to all students. **Top Science classes** are expected to participate.
- ◆ The cost is **\$10.00** per student. This includes entry fee (\$8.80) plus access to past ICAS papers.
- ◆ Students must pay at the office before **Friday 20th of March**.

**Good luck!**

*.....K Estephan  
ICAC Coordinator*



*From the Archive*

Mrs L O'Brien  
Head Teacher Science

# News from the LIBRARY



## PREMIER'S READING Challenge

eBooks – available from our eBook library 24/7

# IMAGINE

...an eBook app that reveals hot-blooded vampires living amongst us.

Borrowing our eBooks is as easy as

- 1 Search for and download the ePlatform app from your app store
- 2 Find our library and log in using your library ID
- 3 Browse and borrow an eBook to read on your device

Search for and download the ePlatform app:

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play | amazon

Ask at the counter for more information about our eBooks

eBooks – available from our eBook library 24/7

# EXPLORE

...the adventures of a teenage spy with our eBook app.

Borrowing our eBooks is as easy as

- 1 Search for and download the ePlatform app from your app store
- 2 Find our library and log in using your library ID
- 3 Browse and borrow an eBook to read on your device

Search for and download the ePlatform app:

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play | amazon

Ask at the counter for more information about our eBooks

### Record

### borrowing Term 4 2014

We had a record number of books borrowed at the end of Term 4 last year which was fabulous. Unfortunately, we have not had a record number of books returned this year! Please check that there are no BHS library books at home that should be back on our shelves in the Library ready for others to enjoy.

### Book Café has started again for 2015.

Book Café is a chance for interested readers to get together with fellow readers in school. We chat about what we are reading, what is coming out and give suggestions to Mrs Alchin and Mrs Davoren as to which books to buy for the Library. Book Café is on Thursday, lunch time. If you are interested please speak to your English teacher.

### Premier's Reading Challenge

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 at Blakehurst High participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. PRC books are clearly labelled in the BHS library with a large, bright green sticker (as well as genre labels and their "call number"). Please encourage students to record the books they have read onto their PRC log which should be in their English book. They may start entering them onto the PRC site from March 1.

### Borrow from our e-platform

Download the new app available and register to borrow from our e-library, or log onto to <https://bhs.wheelers.co> and register to borrow. Use the student number (on your Library card) and your school email account to register.



All Frameworks are completing the mandatory Work Health and Safety competency, which is essential to enable students to participate in Work Placement.

Work Placement is mandatory for all VET Students and fast approaching for Year 11.

**Construction**                      **Term 2 Week 5**

**Business Services**              **Term 2 Weeks 6**

**Hospitality**                      **Term 2 Week 7**



For insurance purposes it is essential that all paperwork is completed correctly, no students will be permitted to attend Work Placement unless all signatures have been collected on the required forms and these are returned to the class teacher prior to the placement. For further information on Work Placement please use the following link:

[http://www.southernsydneyben.com.au/site/work\\_placement](http://www.southernsydneyben.com.au/site/work_placement)

Please note when students are going on Work Placement it is their responsibility to inform their teachers that they will be away and they must catch up on the work that has been missed. If you have any concerns regarding Work Placement please do not hesitate to contact me.



### Attention All year 12 Students

Is there anyone interested in completing a **Responsible Service of Alcohol** and/or **Responsible Conduct of Gaming** course? Please see Mrs Simpson to register your interest.





# NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

## Greetings from the Environmental Team of 2015!

We would like to welcome our new students, parents and carers to our ever growing and active environment community.

Our goal this year is to play an active role in environmental sustainability, and look at how best to educate ourselves and our students in terms of conserving resources, reducing our carbon footprint and eliminating pollution so that we create a sustainable future for all.



We are asking all staff and students to make some simple pledges to reduce their environmental impact this year.

### Recycle wherever possible and protect our environment against pollutants by:

- Turning off the switch on appliances
- Don't leave the fridge door open
- Switch off lights in rooms not being used
- Don't drop litter
- Ride your bike instead of getting a lift in a car or bus
- Turn off the tap while you are brushing your teeth



### UPDATES on last year's projects:

Photos speak more than words. Our veggie garden looked fantastic by the end of last year. We hope that our harvest this year will be bigger and better. Who knows? This might enable us to run a vegetable market stall at our school



once a term, to raise money to buy more seedlings!



Our newly formed Australian native garden behind the school canteen is also thriving with little



maintenance. We will be planting more natives there this year.



We are interested in revegetating bare areas around our school grounds near the driveway and main entrance of the school.



The Environment Team is led by **Ms Georgopoulou**, a teacher on the Science Staff, will be recruiting students to work on projects and plan future events. This year we have already had a huge show of hands volunteering to be a part of our team ranging from Year 7 all the way through to Year 11. This team will run the calendar events mentioned.

If you would like to join us in our Earth saving missions all you have to do is turn up to meetings on Mondays in Lab 3 and help by coming up with fundraising ideas and by raising awareness on environmental issues.

*.....Ms O'Brien, Ms Evers  
Team Members*

**Ms Z Georgopoulou**  
**Environmental Team Coordinator**

## **ENGLISH News**

Welcome back to the new school year, with a very special welcome to all our new, Year 7 students and parents. It was a pleasure meeting many of our new parents at the recent Year 7 Parent Evening.

All English classes have settled in very well and are engaged in their first unit for the term. All students have been given a schedule of the course outline and assessments for the year.

Reading for the **Premier's Reading Challenge** is part of the English Program and students are to read every night for at least 20 minutes as part of their ongoing homework.

During Week 5, Year 10 Peer Tutors will complete training to work with Year 7 and Year 8 DEAR reading groups. Debating groups and training are being organised for competitions during the year.

**Mrs J Hinson**  
**Head Teacher English**



## From the CAREERS Adviser...



At lunchtime Blakehurst High students gained an insight into uni life when they met on the Duck Pond Lawns with UOW students and hundreds of other school students from all over NSW, the ACT and VIC to enjoy live music and other activities.

Overall our students had a very enjoyable day and many were inspired to study at UOW next year. Students are pictured enjoying the Discovery Day.



On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February Year 12 Year Adviser Ms Evangelinos and I took forty year twelve students to the annual **University of Wollongong (UOW) Discovery Day**. Each of our students was given the opportunity to experience firsthand what a day at university is like. Students received a personalised timetable and attended lectures throughout the day as if they were a UOW student. Students were required to find their own way around the campus, read their individual timetables and attend classes. The lectures included a broad range of interesting topics such as:

- **Exercise Science & Rehabilitation- More gain with less pain**
- **Psychology-Drugs and the Brain**
- **Management- What would you do to make a profit?**
- **Nursing, what is it really all about?**
- **Social Work- Change the world and make a difference**
- **Public Relations- How to divert a Public Relations Crisis**
- **Student to Student- What is it really like to be a uni student?**



Ms Evers  
Acting Careers Adviser

# Mathematics

## New Class Names for 2015

For years 8, 9 and 10 we have moved away from naming them 10M1, 10M2 etc as we mix the students in pairs of classes together when they are at the same level. Whilst numbers indicate an ability ranking, the letters do not which we feel is better for class morale.

Years 9 and 10 are in syllabus bands for stages 5.3, 5.2 and 5.1 (that's from highest to lowest). In Year 8 all students study the same stage 4 syllabus (but some are modified with regards the difficulty) and they will also be "paired" together where each pair could be in parallel.

## Our new names are:

8M, 8E, 8D, 8I – Stage 4

8A, 8N – Stage 4 (some content modified)

9S, 9Q, 9U – Stage 5.3

9A, 9R – Stage 5.2

9E, 9D – Stage 5.1

10C, 10O – Stage 5.3

10S, 10I – Stage 5.2

10N, 10E – Stage 5.1



## Mathletics is live!

All maths students have access to this fabulous resource, provided free to you by our P&C.

Teachers will routinely set tasks to be completed, but when they are complete your child can go to any topic within their year group and have a go. There is always the extremely popular live Mathletics that challenges their speed of mental arithmetic. We certainly encourage you to prompt them to complete a few 20 minute sessions each week. All students have their username and password, but if you would like it sent to you please send an email to

[blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

[www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)

## Equipment Required in Class

Every maths student, at every class, will need:

- Scientific calculator (we sell the Casio FX82AU-Plus II for \$22, you may find it cheaper in shops during sale time)
- Several pens, sharp pencils, eraser
- Ruler
- Exercise book (any size, they can have many during the year) AND/OR Grid book (great for the topics that involve graphing)
- Textbook (which we loan to students) in a textbook cover (\$5 we sell these at school and they last for years).

For geometry topics they will also need a protractor and compass; each teacher will let the class know when these are required. If a student forgets any of the above they will be required to have a lunchtime detention (this is normally enough incentive for them to remember!).



## 2015 National Adolescent Vaccination Program...

◆ Visit 1 - March 13, 2015

### Vaccinations All Year 7

Visit 1  
13/03/15

(HPV) Human Papillomavirus Vaccine  
Dose 1

Visit 2  
12/06/15

HPV  
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis  
(Whooping Cough)

Visit 3  
30/10/15

HPV  
Chicken Pox

### Vaccinations Year 8 Catch Up ONLY

Visit 1  
13/03/15

(HPV) Human Papillomavirus  
Vaccine Dose 2/3 for students  
who didn't complete in 2014

Visit 2  
12/06/15

(HPV) Human Papillomavirus  
Vaccine Dose 2/3 for students  
who didn't complete in 2014

Visit 3  
30/10/15

(HPV) Human Papillomavirus  
Vaccine Dose 2/3 for students  
who didn't complete in 2014

### Vaccination All Year 11 – One Dose Only

Visit 1  
13/03/15

MMR Vaccine.  
These students **must not drive** for 30 minutes after  
vaccination.

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## LOTE Report



We are only a short time into 2015 and already the Lote Staff have celebrated Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras and Apokries.

We have also welcomed two New Greek Teachers from the Greek Consulate, **Mr Socratis Gavrielatos** and **Mrs Doxa Kapiri**, who will be working at our school this year. Mr Gavrielatos will be with us on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Kapiri, on Fridays. Both these teachers will be working with the advanced students in Years, 7, 8, and 10, and also the Continuers Level in Years 11 and 12. We wish them all the best for 2015. The latest member of the LOTE Staff to join us is **Stephanie D'Arcangeli**, a former student teacher at BHS, who will be teaching Italian and ESL.

My dedicated staff never stops planning and there are many exciting activities this term and next to engage our students and enable them fully appreciated the culture of the language they are studying.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank **Mrs Silvana D'Iapico** for her continued support and generosity for our top Italian Students. I am looking forward to a productive and exciting year in 2015.



# HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!!

新年快樂! (Xīnnián kuàilè) 恭喜發財! (Gōngxǐ fācái) These are the two of the most common Chinese ways of saying Happy Chinese New Year. 新年快樂 (Xīnnián kuàilè) literally means 'happy new year' and 恭喜發財 (gōngxǐ fācái) means 'may you be prosperous'. 2015 is the year of the goat (羊 yáng), and if your birthday is in 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992 or 2004 then you were born in the year of the goat.

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, 7K and Year 9 Chinese class celebrated the festival with a mouth-watering feast with a selection of Yum Cha style dim sum and BBQ goodies. We all enjoyed the delicious feast and the Chinese New Year celebration. We wish everyone 心想事成 (Xīn xiǎng shì chéng), may all your wishes come true and 萬事如意 (wànshì rúyì) hope everything goes your way in 2015.





.....Ms C Lao  
.....Chinese Teacher

youth leadership while evoking the question of why one should take up the position of being a leader. Our Prefects found this program very inspiring and thought provoking.

The Aim of the program was to:

- **Explore** the notion of how an effective and inspiring leadership team can be a huge positive influence on schools and communities
- **Enhance** self and group awareness amongst leadership teams
- **Promote** group cohesion and unity through deconstructing team activities
- **Develop** a sense of shared vision and strategy
- **Teach** advanced skills and tools to assist leaders in their growth and development.

The Junior Prefects bonded through a range of activities and are now inspired and motivated to get started on a range of projects.

## L EADERSHIP TEAM - Report

### PREFECT

It has a busy start to the year for the student leaders. The Senior Prefects added some fun to the school week by organising an exchange of red roses and red heart shaped lollypops on Valentine's Day. It was a successful fundraiser as well, raising over \$600.

- L**everage The Junior prefects participated in a leadership training day on Thursday February 12, The program was conducted by a group from Y.LEAD which is an acronym for **Youth Leverage Educate Actuate Develop**. It envelops the concept of
- E**ducate
- A**ctuate
- D**evelop

Mrs A Mangraviti  
Head Teacher LOTE

# PDHPE Faculty Report

## NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey-2015

In week 8 three year 10 classes will participate in the SPAN survey with numerous other schools in NSW. This survey will give an indication of the level of fitness and activity levels and the nutritional habits of our young people. This survey gives Health and Fitness providers direction and areas of concern and in need of improvement. More information will be circulated to the students being tested closer to the date.

## Year 11 SLR Students give our school an even better reputation!

The following Year 11 SLR students have recently assisted at the Hurstville South Primary School swimming carnival as water safety officers. The organising teacher commented on what an outstanding job these students did in encouraging and supporting the younger and poorer swimmers from the primary school. Congratulations to: Rhiannon Dunk, Sally Farran, Daniel Hardy, Jacob King, Ellen Koutsoukos, John Melas, Brittany Ritevska, Sheridan Smith and Shania Williams. Their actions have made our school's name even better.

## Year 12-2015

Students are now approximately half way through the HSC course and it is imperative that they revise and study all course work regularly so that they are not overburdened nearing the end of the course as they prepare for the HSC. There are high expectations for this cohort in the HSC and it is hoped that all students work to their ability and attain the HSC results that they deserve. This cohort has also utilised ALARM throughout their senior course which should stand them in good stead for the extended response answers in PDHPE.

## Year 11

Three 2 unit PDHPE classes are running in year 11 consisting of 63 students. This course is getting more popular by the year with 8 more students completing the course than last year. These classes are being taught by Mr Kemp, Ms Berrett and Mr Smith. The Preliminary course is the basis and a very important component of presumed knowledge for the HSC course and it is essential that all students complete the work to the best of their ability. Year 11 will also participate in an Outdoor Recreation day in the last week of this term is being planned with more information to be circulated closer to the event.

Two Sport Lifestyle and Recreation classes are also being taught with Mr Yelavich and Mr Smith teaching these classes.

## Years 7-10

Year 10 will once again be involved in the SALSA program in Term 2, where selected students teach Year 8 students about Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition. Mr Kemp and Mr Tsatallios will be co-ordinating the program in 2015.

## Years 7 to 10 Personal Development and Health

all students are taught relevant and meaningful information on the lifestyle issues that they will face as they grow into young adults. The major outcome of this is that all students gain the ability to act on this information to make informed and healthy decisions for the present and into the future. To achieve these outcomes all PDHPE programs have been evaluated and re-written with the latest and most relevant information. Technology, lesson differentiation and student centred approaches have been utilised in all stages to ensure that all students gain the most benefit from their PDHPE courses. I would like to thank the whole PDHPE team for the time and effort that they have put in to making these programs so engaging and informative for our students. Physical Education lessons in Term 1 will include fitness testing, gymnastics, dance and some sports. It is very important that all students bring their school sports uniform for practical lessons. All students have noted down their practical lesson periods on their timetables. A "2 strike" system will operate with students who fail to bring their PE uniforms more than once having to complete lunch detentions to make up for the missed lesson time.

All Year 7 to 10 students have also received a permission note explaining the PDHPE courses. A tear off return section, which gives permission for students to walk to parks outside school for PE lessons needs to be sighted, signed and returned to the class teacher. Year 10 are also undertaking the SALSA program this year as discussed in the final issue of Blakehurst news in 2013. This is a very exciting initiative run in conjunction with Sydney University. More details will follow closer to the program commencing.

## The Scope and Sequence for Years 7 to 10 is:

Year	Theory	Practical
10	Risks, Choices and Taking Action	Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Hockey, Netball
9	Creating Respectful Relationships	Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Hockey, Cricket
8	Growing and Changing	Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Dance, Volleyball
7	New Environments, New Challenges	Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Dance, Oz Tag, Basketball

## Year 9/10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies

This course is an extension of PDHPE lessons but targets areas such as, anatomy and biomechanics to help in understanding how the body works in physical activity. It will also give students an opportunity to experience various leisure activities such as tennis, canoeing and surf lifesaving. Two classes are running in each of these years.

*Yours in Sport*

**Mr A Yelavich**  
**Head Teacher PDHPE**

# PDHPE Sports Report

Summer sport has commenced for 2015 with grade Trials being held within the first three weeks of school, with the official start of St George Zone Sport beginning on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

We have 38 boys teams and 28 girls teams contesting the Summer Grade Sport competition this year, and as the current Girls Grade Sport Champion School, we are looking at retaining this trophy and adding to it with the Boys Grade Sport Champion School.

## Blakehurst High School Sports Houses

All students at Blakehurst High have been allocated a Sports House dependant on the first initial of their surname. These houses have been named in honour of past Australian sporting champions. The sport houses are represented as following:

House	Colour	Patron	Captains	V.Captains
<b>Freeman</b>	Yellow	Ms Berrett	Z Azam V Bojanic	J Drakulovic M Cheung
<b>Gainsford</b>	Blue	Mr Kemp	S Gaddes T Hall	M Gee F Khan
<b>Perkins</b>	Green	Ms Rizzo Liu	S Ng Naumoski	T Milacic A Ristevski
<b>Savage</b>	Red	Mr Tsattalios	L Seib H Smith	E Young A Youssef

We wish all the houses the best of luck at the swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals where students are encouraged to compete in as many events as they like and support their house by wearing their house colours.

## Blakehurst High School Swimming Carnival

The first school carnival of the year was the Swimming carnival which was conducted at Carss Park Swimming Pool on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. The weather was kind with the rain holding off all day with plenty of action in the water, the racing was fierce and fast. Congratulations must go to all students who behaved and participated to an exceptionally high standard throughout the day.

Mr Kemp and the Gainsford House along with the House Captains must be congratulated for being crowned Champion Swim House after to edge out Savage, Freeman and Perkins. I would also like to thank all the parents who showed their support on the day. The day ran very smoothly and big thanks must go to Mr Nathan Smith who did an excellent job in coordinating the Swimming Carnival.

We also had a number of different swimming records broken on the day by some outstanding swimmers. The new records are as follows:

Freestyle	Butterfly	Backstroke	Breaststroke
<b>16yrs</b> S Smith 2015 29.37sec	<b>16yrs</b> S Smith 2015 31.31sec	<b>16yrs</b> S Smith 2015 34.43 sec	<b>16yrs</b> S Smith 2015 37.63sec
<b>15yrs</b> M Poulter 2015 27.63sec	<b>15yrs</b> M Poulter 2015 29.09 sec	<b>15yrs</b> M Poulton 2015 30.53sec	<b>15yrs</b> M Poulton 2015 36.25sec

Age	Female	Male
<b>12 years</b>	K Hatt	D Bakrdanikoska
<b>13 years</b>	K Harrington	B Driscoll
<b>14 years</b>	F Kak	B Kirby
<b>15 years</b>	Q Chen	M Poulter
<b>16 years</b>	S Smith	R Wang
<b>17+years</b>	E Koutsoukos R Gray-Schwarz	S Wood

Good luck to all those students who will be representing Blakehurst High School at the St George Zone Swimming Carnival on the Monday 2nd March and Friday 6th March to be held at Revesby Pool.

## Other Sporting Achievements

Mariah Stewart-Mulipola of Year 10 at Blakehurst High School has recently been crowned National Champion in Muay Thai. Mariah will be contesting the world championships in Thailand and we wish her all the best. Below is a link to an article published in the leader about Mariah's achievements.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/2870947/montereys-mariah-stewart-mulipola-set-for-muay-thai-kickboxing-world-championships/?cs=1633>

## Sport web sites

The following sport web sites are useful for school sport notices, zone sport information and Sydney East knock outs and representation.

Blakehurst High Sport Information – <http://www.blakehurst-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sport>

St George Zone Sport Information – <http://www.stgeorgesssa.com.au/>

Sydney East Sport Information - [http://www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au/syd\\_east/welcome.htm](http://www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au/syd_east/welcome.htm)

We also have a new school based app we are using called skoolbag. If you search Blakehurst High Skoolbag in the app store on your smart phone you can download this app. This will give you up to date information about Wednesday sport and also a whole host of information across the school.

Regards,

**Mr B Kemp**  
Sports Organiser



# Seeking Hosts/Carers

for our

## High School International Students

- **ENJOY SHARING** the 'Australian lifestyle' with visiting students.
- **EXPERIENCE THE REWARDS** of close cultural relationships.
- **MAKE NEW FRIENDS** from around the globe that can last a lifetime.

If you would like to host an international student attending our school,  
then please contact

one of the registered Homestay Providers  
listed below

or  
visit their

websites for details on how to apply today!

All Homestay Providers offer 24 hour friendly service and support to  
students and their registered host families.

### **AUZZIE FAMILIES Homestay Care**

[www.auzziefamilies.com](http://www.auzziefamilies.com) / [info@auzziefamilies.com](mailto:info@auzziefamilies.com) / (02) 9301 0900

### **OZ HOMESTAY**

[www.ozhomestay.com.au](http://www.ozhomestay.com.au) / [info@ozhomestay.com.au](mailto:info@ozhomestay.com.au) / (02) 8765 9063

### **STAY DOWN UNDER**

[www.staydownunder.com.au](http://www.staydownunder.com.au) / [info@staydown.com.au](mailto:info@staydown.com.au) / (02) 8901 4499



Your link to support  
Tel. 1800 066 757



Information for Parents and Students:

## Great news!

Our school has subscribed to the ELES Online Study Skills Handbook.

The ELES Online Study Skills Handbook provides a comprehensive and interactive online guide for the school community (students, parents and teachers) as to the study skills needed for success in high school studies. This approach taps into students' affinity with technology to create a new and effective way to improve students' study skills.

This is a great online resource for parents and students to address all their study skills issues and concerns and enable students to learn new ways to improve their results at school. The handbook has a huge amount of information for both students and parents as well as a large number of interactive activities.

To access the handbook, go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) and login as a subscriber with these details:

Username:

Password:

The topics currently covered by the handbook are:

#### AT HOME

1. Home Study Environment
2. Organisation and Filing
3. Time Management Skills
4. Managing Workload
5. Dealing with Distractions
6. Overcoming Procrastination
7. Developing Motivation
8. Goal Setting
9. Lifestyle and Balance
10. Managing Stress

#### AT SCHOOL

1. Will we ever use this?
2. Using Classtime
3. Asking for Help
4. Dealing with Conflict
5. Groupwork Skills

#### SPECIFIC SKILLS

1. Reading Skills
2. Writing Skills
3. Mathematical Skills
4. Language Skills
5. Research Skills
6. Presentation Skills
7. Science Skills
8. Assignment Skills

#### TESTS AND EXAMS

1. Summarising
2. Active Studying
3. Preparing for Exam Blocks
4. Test-Taking Techniques
5. After Tests & Exams

#### EXTRA 'GENERAL' MINIHUNITS

1. Starting Secondary School
2. Becoming a Senior Student
3. Bullying: Issues and Strategies
4. Managing Part-Time Jobs
5. Your Brain and Memory
6. Live Your Best Life
  - + Educational Kinesiology
  - + Living Across 2 Houses
  - + Travel: A Motivator to Learn
  - + Uni: Lecture Note-Making

#### EXTRA 'TECHNOLOGY' MINIHUNITS

1. Technology Tools
2. Basic Computer Skills
3. Be CyberSmart
  - + Useful Apps for iPads
  - + Microsoft OneNote



We encourage all parents and students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their students' study skills abilities through this online resource.

[www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

**Please note:**

The above user name and password is for the use of the secondary school parents and students AT OUR SCHOOL ONLY. Please do not pass our school's details onto students or parents from other schools or other individuals or organisations as this is a prosecutable breach of copyright and also will result in frequent password changes for our school. Please also ensure you read through the terms of use the first time you access the handbook.

Ph: 0416 293 087 Fax: 02 9908 1893  
info@enhanced-learning.net  
www.enhanced-learning.net

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**Enhanced Learning  
Educational Services**  
*"the study skills specialist"*

# SGSCC

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Community College



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# 2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate



**\$150\***  
TOWARDS  
ENERGY  
BILLS

Apply before Midnight  
16 June 2015

**2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM**

<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

\* eligibility criteria apply

## WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- A \$150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- A \$165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

To be eligible you **MUST**:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

Before you apply, here's a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-14 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

## HOW TO APPLY

- **ONLINE** – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

**APPLY  
ONLINE  
NOW!**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

**PHONE** Service NSW 13 77 88

**EMAIL** [fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au)

**WEB** [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate)