Blakehurst High School Newsletter

Your Outstanding Local Comprehensive Secondary School

Term 2 2018

Principal's Report

Hello Blakehurst community,

Term 2 is always one of the busiest Terms for both students and staff.

Students have been achieving in classrooms right across all KLAs and year groups. Discussion regarding students learning outcomes have been positive and we as a teaching body are keen to further our knowledge and skill set in methods that will enhance student learning and student's own behaviours towards their learning. Among other focus areas, staff have worked in their professional learning "hubs" this term with regards to Metacognition, Explicit Teaching and Feedback. Staff from the Curriculum Differentiation Team attended a combined Curriculum Differentiation Twilight at Kogarah High School to further support their development in this crucial area. Leading on from professional development is student learning. Our parent teacher evenings were highly successful, and we feel the strong synergy that exists between the home and school is growing.

Student and staff wellbeing as with learning, continues to be an area that Blakehurst exceeds in. Staffs' Twilight professional development focused on Mindfulness and the positive psychology model PERMA. We are thankful to our committed P & C members for their continued support of the student Yoga and Mindfulness program. During Term 2, Year 8 participated in the program as did Year 7 in Term 1. This highly resourceful and valuable program will be continuing with Year 9 participating in Term 3.

Ours students' have continued to participate in a myriad of extra-curricular excursions that emphasise the content learnt in class. Our debating teams have continued to progress, students participated in ICAS competitions, we were named South Sydney STEM CUP champions, our dance ensemble blew everyone away with their performances as part of the Ultimo's *Spotlight* dance festival, our choir represented us and sang beautifully at *Inconcert* at the Sydney Townhall. In the area of sport our students continue to demonstrate how elite they are, our boys volleyball team ranked second in the state and we had the largest team of students representing their school at zone. As one can see from the snapshot that I have presented, at Blakehurst we focus on the development of the whole person.

With regards to our school setting, stage one of the new build has ended and MACE the contractors will be working through the break to get the area ready for stage two of the build. The new driveway will be accessible for deliveries and emergency services only. All students will need to walk to the school through the barricaded fenced area across the driveway, the top of the car park and down the stairs. Student access points will be marked very clearly. We can assure our school community that every safe precaution is being implemented.

270A Woniora Road
BLAKEHURST NSW 2221

Ph.: 9546 3281
Email: blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.blakehurst-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Looking forward, to next term there will be opportunities for parent and carer consultation as we look to possibly changing the structure of the school day. We would like to increase the face to face time students have with staff. This will mean moving from a 4 period 70 minute day to a 5 period 60 minute day. There is a lot to consider in making such a decision including what this will mean for our practical subjects, hence the consultation. I will be consulting with parents at our subject selection evening in week 1 and then other parent groups after school in week two. All parents will receive emails regarding these time frames, your input will be greatly appreciated.

As was posted on our Facebook page, our wonderful Deputy Principal Mr Daniel Ovens has been appointed as Principal of Figtreee High School. Mr Oven's has been committed to the growth of our school since 2011. He has been a strong advocate of our community and has led our school forward in extensive ways. He will be greatly missed by all, we wish him the very best in his new role. Figtee High School are very fortunate to have such a responsive, caring and instructional leader lead their school. All the best Dan!

We would also like to wish year 12 best of luck with their studies, and the whole school community a safe and enjoyable break.

The loftiest towers are built from the ground up

Sophie Kapsimalis
Principal

Science

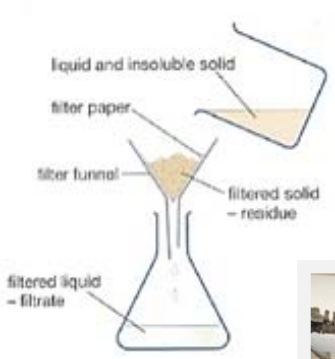
This has been a busy assessment and reporting term, with Years 7-10 and Year 12 students completing **Half Yearly Exams**. For the first time, Year 11 science courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, completed a Depth Study.

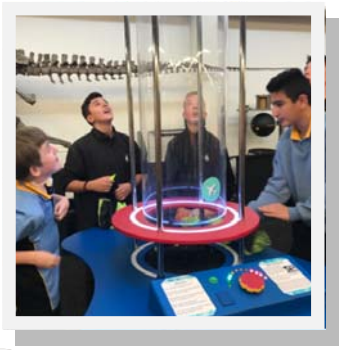
Year 7 Students have been studying a biology topic called **"Dead or Alive".** They have learned about the features of living things, how living things are grouped (taxonomy) and how to sort using dichotomous keys. In Term 3, all Year 7 will visit the Taronga Zoo to attend lectures in the Education Centre and view animals from all over the world. Here is a picture of Mr Hewetson's class.Year 8.

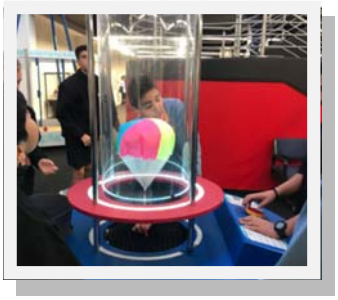
Year 8 have been studying a chemistry topic called "**What a Mess!"** They have learned how to classify matter and how mixtures can be separated using filtration, distillation and the centrifuge.

Three Year 8 classes visited the Wollongong Science Centre in early June. Here are some photos of their trip.

Three Year 8 classes visited the Wollongong Science Centre in early June. Here are some photos of their trip.







From the

Science Department

IMPROVING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS

February 2018 Update

A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required for your child to receive their Higher School Certificate (HSC).

Meeting the HSC minimum standard will mean that your child has the literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for success in learning and life after school.

THE ONLINE TESTS

Most students will show they have met the HSC minimum standard by passing minimum standard online tests. Students master basic skills at different stages so there are multiple opportunities available to pass the tests, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.

There are three 45-minute online tests:

√ a multiple choice **reading** test

√ a multiple choice **numeracy** test

√ a short **writing** test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt.

2017 NAPLAN TESTS

If your child achieved Band 8s or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.

TEST DATES

Students will have two opportunities a year, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12, to pass each online test.

The online test dates (school days only) for 2018 are:

Term 1: 19 February to 23 March 2018

Term 2: 21 May to 22 June 2018

Term 3: 13 August to 14 September 2018

Term 4: 5 November to 7 December 2018

WHAT TO EXPECT?

To help your child understand what to expect in the online tests, they are encouraged to visit **educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard** to:

√ try demonstration questions to get a feel for the test format

√ View sample test questions and answers online.

Yours child's school may also organise short practice tests.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests, or an exemption from the HSC minimum standard requirement.

Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers to determine whether they are eligible for provisions. A Disability Provisions, Exemptions and Appeals policy, which contains further information, is available on the NESA website.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your child's school principal for more detailed information about the HSC minimum standard or visit the NESA website:

educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard

STAY UP TO DATE

NSW Education Standards Authority

educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard

NSW GOVERNMENT

Environment

Sydney Water Research Task

Do you think you can tell the difference between tap water and bottled water?

Bottled water was first introduced in Australia in the late 1980's. Even though we have clean tap water, in 2015, Australians purchased over 726 million litres of water!

The taste test-

Students from 7B were asked to complete a research task on “Sydney Water”. We were asked to drink water from two different cups and guess which cup was filled with tap water and which one was filled with bottled water. We then completed some questions based on what we tasted and researched.

The results-

Most of the students could tell the difference between the two different cups of water and approximately half of the class chose the correct type of water from each cup.

It’s important to use tap water over bottled water because there is an impact on the environment and surrounding aspects when using bottled water. The water for these bottles had to be pumped out of the ground, packaged and transported, creating over 60,000 tons of greenhouse gases a year in Australia alone. (See coolaustralia.org for more info.)

Bottles used to package water take over 1,000 years to bio-degrade and in Australia most water bottles end up in landfill. Recycling makes a big difference, the more we recycle the less raw materials we use.
Solutions that can be offered to avoid the use of bottled water and promote the use of tap water include bringing your own refillable bottle to school, work or events and going back to the tap to refill.

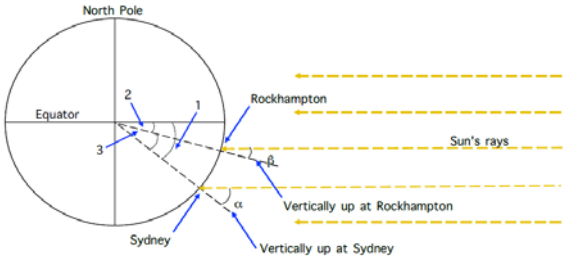
A simple change can make a big difference.

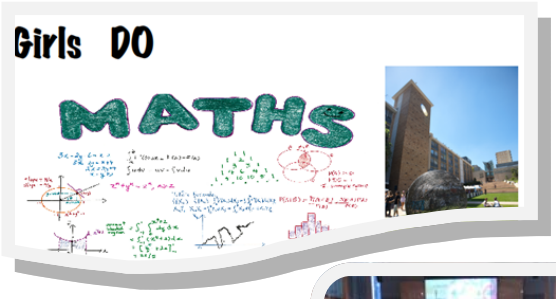
From the Environment Team

On the 25th May, twenty year 10 students went to Sydney Olympic park on an excursion to learn more about surveyors and what they do. The day provided many opportunities for us to participate in surveying activities. The first activity required us to measure different points on a building using a theodolite. The theodolite shoots a laser that measures the angle of elevation, the distance and the zenith angle. The next activity used a satellite tracking GPS to mark out points on a garden, the points were then transferred to a CAD program which allowed us to draw an accurate model of the garden. After that we were introduced to the history of surveying and the different tools people use in different times. Surveying has been around for many years to aid navigation and mapping. Afterwards we had a 360^{o} camera to take a camera using lasers. The lasers pick up both objects and colours. After lunch, we learnt more about the history of surveying and estimated the circumference of the Earth (which came to about 40075km). Our last activity had us throwing balls and measuring the distance using Pythagoras' theorem. The activity showed us how surveying can be used in many sports such as shot put. The day was great and provided many opportunities for us to experience surveying first hand.

Written by Jackson Ng.

Photo taken through the theodolit





On Wednesday 16th May, we attended the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to be inspired and introduced to all the careers that use Mathematics in the world around us. We had the privilege of meeting one of the first female Professors of Mathematics. We also met the Australian Maths team (ages ranged from 14-18 years). We were given free makeup from MACC, binoculars and most importantly an experience I will never forget. GIRLS DO THE MATHS was a fun and inspiring day and I encourage you to go next year if you get the chance.

Jolie Ghali, Year 12.

STEM CUP CHAMPIONS

Blakehurst High School are the champion school of the South Sydney STEM Cup! Beating more than 500 students, we had to most closely match the figures from the Rabbitohs capologist Peter Legge. Most of the winning students came from Mrs Peachey's 5.3 Mathematics class.

Our prize was a back of house tour at the Rabbitohs vs Sharks match at the Olympic Stadium, including exclusive viewing of the Rabbitohs' warmup, forming the honour guard on the field and excellent seats in a private suite.

YEAR 11 TALENTED STUDENTS DAY

On Thursday 7th June, five of our Year 11 extension students represented our school at the annual Talented Maths Students Day at Sydney Technology High School.

Thirteen other teams representing other schools in our area competed against our school in a series of activities that challenged their problem solving and lateral thinking skills, their ability to think quickly under pressure, and to learn from and communicate well with their team mates.

While our team did not place in the top 3 positions at the end of the competition, they enjoyed the opportunity to spend a whole day doing interesting and challenging maths problems that utilised their skills and knowledge in different ways, and most of all were fun.

The members of the team worked really well together and represented the school admirably. Well done to the team of Matthew Deng, Margaret Lee, Leo Liang, Phoebe Tao and Vivianne Vuong.

From the Maths Department

From the Library

Get Graphic!

Sydney Writers Festival Excursion

Wednesday 2nd May 2018

A group of students attended the Sydney Writers Festival High School Day and listened to presentations by Jesse Andrews "*Me, Earl and the Dying Girl*", Alison Croggan "*Black Spring*", Kirsty Eaggar, "*Summer Skin*"

and Patrick Ness, "*Chaos Trilogy, A Monster calls, Release".* Students were able to meet and talk with the authors and have their books signed.

The common theme for all the authors was 'emotion' rather than writing with a target audience in mind.

A great day had by all.

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

The challenge continues with students in Years 7-9 encouraged (in their wide reading library classes) to participate. Students need to read 20 PRC titles before

24th August and record them online. Students can access the PRC online through their student portal. Certificates will be distributed towards the end of Term 4.

Until next time, Happy Reading

Mr J Darlington Teacher Librarian

Year 7 Camp

On the 23rd May, Year 7 embarked on their first adventure as a cohort to the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber. The students were extremely excited and this was the largest number of participants we have taken to a school camp!

The students hit the ground running and were keen to participate in all the activities from the very first minute that they arrived, even with a few feeling slightly under the weather from the bus trip up. During the three days, students were able to challenge themselves and step outside their comfort zones in a range of activities, involving large scale heights, and working together to enhance decision making skills in group work scenarios. All the activities were challenge by choice and all students pushed themselves to their limits and represented Blakehurst High School with pride.

Students returned to school life with new friends and a greater sense of confidence in their capabilities. Camp was a great success for all involved with students, teachers and camp leaders thoroughly enjoying the experience. Well done year 7!!

Accounts Department

As from Monday 23 July 2018 you will be able to make online payments to the School for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Wesptac. Payments can be made using a VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card and can be made via computer, tablet or mobile phone.

You will receive more detailed instructions by post during the school holidays.

WordFlyers

Take your students on a literacy adventure!

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child's school has registered with WordFlyers, the online literacy program specifically designed for students in years 7–10. This means your child can now use WordFlyers at home and practise what they have learned in class. WordFlyers is dedicated to bringing students' literacy skills up to standard in grammar, reading comprehension, punctuation, vocabulary, spelling and writing.

If you would like your child to use WordFlyers at home, simply follow the steps below:

1. Go to student.wordflyers.com/login
2. Login with these details:

Login name:		Password:	

To enjoy the program at home, you will need, at a minimum:

- Windows: Internet Explorer 10, Firefox 15 or Google Chrome
- Macintosh: Safari 6.0, Firefox 15 or Google Chrome
- Screen Resolution: 1024x768
- Flash Player: 10.56+ for older versions of Firefox
- Sound card must be working

If you come across any technical issues, please try the following:

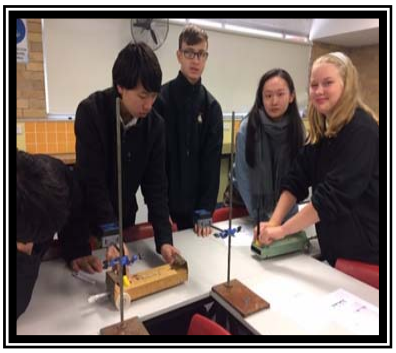
- Refresh the page
- Check firewalls / security settings / content filters as sometimes this blocks content, like sound
- If you're experiencing issues using Internet Explorer, please try a different browser such as Firefox or Google Chrome
- Clear your cache
- Modify proxy/content filter settings to accept larger files up to 5 MB in size

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact our friendly customer care team at 1300 784 088 or contact@wordflyers.com.au

Year 9 students have very much enjoyed learning about human reproduction in the topic, **"Miracle of Life".** They have labelled diagrams and investigated the development of embryos in utero. They have also studied STIs and methods of contraception.

Year 10 Students have been studying Evolution and Natural Selection. They conducted experiments that simulated the different beaks of the Galapagos Island finches.

Year 11 Depth Studies—Students conducted their own experiment s



MUSICAL

As Term 2 draws rapidly to a close, it's time to reflect on a very busy and productive term! Where the time has gone??!!

BHS CHOIR

On Tuesday 22 May the BHS Choir performed at the Annual In-Concert Choral Festival at Sydney Town Hall to a packed audience.
The choir was spectacular and the sound coming from approximately 900 students in the gallery was just gorgeous!
We were delighted to participate in a workshop with the famous Australian acapella group – The Idea of North!
Here is a link to the 2018 In-Concert Performance……enjoy!

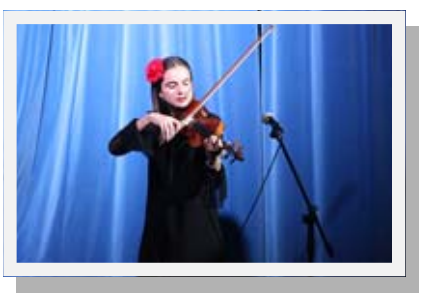
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEV41cjLEA8

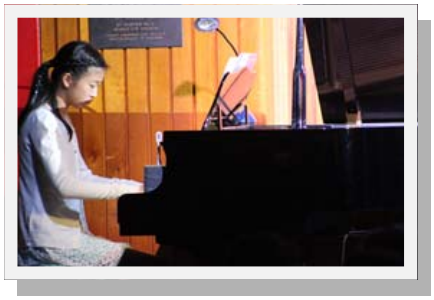
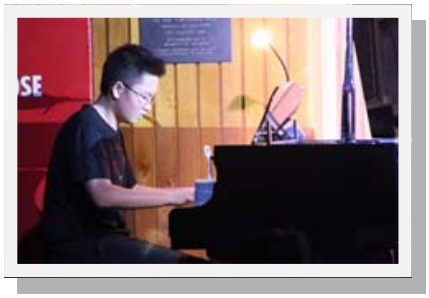
And!!! …… we are delighted to announce that BHS Choir have been selected to be a part of the School Spectacular Combined Choir!
Congratulations guys!! (…*and thank you Eric Wu!!*)

MUSIC NIGHT 2018

Our Annual Music Night was held on Wednesday 27 June - and what a spectacular night it was – some say best ever!! Music Night is CAPA's performance 'night of nights' to showcase our homegrown talent. Congratulations to all our performers!! What a fabulous effort! And special mention and thank you to our wonderful Stage Crew and staff helpers!!

Thank you all very much!



BHS DANCE ENSEMBLE

Coordination, fitness, agility and above all team work!!

This is exactly what the BHS Dance Ensemble demonstrated at their performances this year! First there was the Sutherland Dance Festival on 14 June at Sutherland Entertainment Centre, then once again at the Spotlight on Dance Festival which was held at the Seymour Centre, then finally at BHS music night in the school auditorium.

16 dedicated students debuted the 2018 routine to 'Yellow Flicker Beat', cleverly choreographed by our own talented Dance Teacher, Jessica Hesketh. It has been hard work girls but you really shone this year! We are so proud of you!

GUITAR LESSONS

Guitar lessons will now be held each Wednesday morning from the beginning of Term 3. There are still times available for students who would like to start lessons in Term 3. See Ms Jacobsen for more details.

On behalf of the CAPA team – thank you to all our students for a super effort this term!! Looking forward to doing it all again next term!!

Have a great holiday. Rest and recharge!!

Judy Jacobsen and the CAPA team

PARENT INFORMATION

CDAT community drug action team
We're Stronger Together

PARENTS - HAVE 'THE OTHER TALK' WITH YOUR TEENS

One of the best ways to minimise young people's risk of tobacco, alcohol and drug-related harms is for parents to have 'The Other Talk', according to the St George Community Drug Action Team (CDAT).

Research shows that young people consider parents to be credible sources of information relating to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and that they have a major influence on their teenagers as to their use of any of these, and can help them from harmful use.

Valentina Angelovska, Chairperson, St George CDAT and Manager, 2Connect Youth & Community suggests for parents to "Talk with your teenager and open the lines of communication early about the risks and harms of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, stress the importance of avoiding risky situations, looking out for their friends, and planning ahead"

There's no set formula for having 'The Other Talk' but it's important for parents to start as early as possible with talking openly with their teenager. Starting communication when students start year 7 is a good time, but parents can start communicating with any age. Here's a guide to get you started:

1. Start with the facts
2. Be clear with your beliefs
3. Look for opportunities – to have a casual chat
4. Ask questions- about what your teenager knows and thinks
5. Discuss the harms
6. Set rules and consequences
7. Keep the door open – for any questions or chats your teenager wants to have

It's never easy having any talk, but that talk can have a huge impact on your teen!

If you or your teenager need support relating to alcohol and other drug use, dial 2Connect *Youth & Community* (formerly St George Youth Services) on 9556 1769 or visit 2connect.org.au.

To get more support for how to have 'The Other Talk' or find out more, visit adf.org.au/programs/the-other-talk/conversation.

– ENDS –

ABOUT ST GEORGE COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAM (CDAT)

We're a small group from all parts of the community; we're made up of local residents, government agencies and non-government services and have a common goal to make our community safer, healthier and stronger by working to reduce the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

CDAT is a key part of the Community Engagement and Action Program (CEAP) of the NSW Ministry of Health. The program is managed by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF).

Stay updated and 'Like' us on Facebook.