



Blakehurst High School Newsletter

Your Outstanding Local Comprehensive Secondary School Term 4 2018

Principal's Report

Dear Blakehurst community,

Following is the speech delivered at our presentation day and evening ceremonies. It encapsulates the wonderful year we have had:

"The NSW Department of Education's mission is to ensure that: every student, every teacher, every leader, and every school improves each year.

Last year when I spoke at the end of year ceremonies I was relatively newly appointed and I spoke of the excellence I observed in my short while at the school. However, this year I can state confidently that we have met the NSW Department of Education's criteria successfully.

The end of year is a culmination of a years improvement and growth at our school.

A celebration of student, staff and community successes.

One way in which student successes is exemplified, is in the known results we have received, thus far regarding our Year 12 cohort.

Angelina Liu's HSC work has been selected to be exhibited in Textstyle, the annual exhibition of outstanding major Textiles projects.

Ria Stephenson's Visual Arts work "De Profundis's" (From The Depths) - was nominated for inclusion in ARTEXPRESS and will be exhibited in Hazelhurst Gallery.

Likewise, Lachlan Chan and Ben Chen's works have been nominated for possible inclusion in InTech, the annual exhibition of outstanding Industrial Technology major projects.

Furthermore, we have been informed that Chrysanthi Diasinos ranked first in the state in Modern Greek Beginners and in the top 10% of the state in Society and Culture, her PIP being awarded a distinction and ranked 24th out of 4541 student submissions.

I would like to commend Ms Allen, Ms Strudwick, Mr Van Munster, and Ms Theodorou on these outstanding students results.

We have many students who have been accepted into university through early entrance schemes and many have secured themselves traineeships in a variety of vocations.

Additional examples of the way in which our students' intellect was further challenged and publicly recognised include:

Named South Sydney STEM cup champions.

Brianna Fitzmaurice and Polina Pavlenko who were runners up at the Youth Model United Nations Assembly - MUNA.

Polina also succeeding, in being selected to attend the International Science Youth Forum in Melbourne.

More broadly, our students participated twice in ABC's Q & A, they excelled in external ICAS examinations in English, Mathematics, History, Geography and the International Science competition.

The majority of our students achieving Credit, Distinctions and High Distinctions.

You would agree that these results demonstrate the academic rigour of both our students and staff.

Thank you staff for your diligence, for believing in our students and believing in the power of education.

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I would like to note that we do not only count successes at Blakehurst as purely academic.

Simply, as it is our end of year presentation, it is appropriate that we showcase these achievements.

As we have stated consistently, success comes in a variety of forms, it is the incremental growth, found in all aspects of school, and life.

In its purest form I believe success is achieved when students experience joy, pride in themselves and self-efficacy.

In order to enhance individual and collective school pride, providing students, the opportunities to grow as leaders is an intrinsic element of our school culture.

Students are given a voice at every school assembly delivering "I Say" speeches, communicating their beliefs, influencing their peers and strengthening our school.

Our SALSA group voiced their Youth Voice Pitch and coordinated Hoops for Hope. Students have teamed up with the Leadership by the River team, are lobbying for a fitness circuit and are currently representing the student body in the school canteen tendering process.

Our student debaters and public speakers spoke with tenacity and appeal.

The Interact group amongst other projects coordinated a drive to support the drought stricken Murrumburrah community and are travelling 3 and half hours to gift them our support.

Our student leaders from all groups including the SRC and prefects have attended, leadership conferences, camps and youth empowerment excursions.

Our SRC and prefects led fundraises for worthy causes, raising a phenomenal amount of money.

Our students proudly participated in the Georges River Council, White Ribbon walk, led our White Ribbon assembly and painted a White Ribbon wall, that students have signed pledging their commitment.

Our Environmental team, continued to sustain our school gardening initiatives, they promoted a clean school, student responsibility and participated in *Green Day* workshops, at St George Girls High School as was conveyed in the Leader, last week.

Most importantly students fostered growth in each other, by taking on the role of Peer Support Leaders and Peer Tutors.

Externally, our student volunteers actively gave back to their community by engaging in Legacy Day and the Red Shield Appeal.

I would like to personally thank all of the Blakehurst students who have contributed to our school, not only are we proud of you but we are deeply appreciative of the integrity you have demonstrated, your enthusiasm and efforts.

Thank you also, to the staff who work across the leadership groups for the continual guidance and inspiration, they provide our students.

Thank you also to Rotary for their ongoing support.

The empowering of all students across all stages has underpinned all extra curricula activities.

These have included:

Elevate Study Skills workshops across all year groups,

U Turn the wheel seminars,

Careers incursions and excursions aligned with Universities,

A VET student induction night and highly successful,

Careers Expo and separate Stage 6 UAC evening.

Similarly, students' learnings were reinforced through faculty specific experiences including:

The annual Ski and Great Barrier Reef trips.

Blakehurst students experienced the Invictus Games, viewed theatre productions, attended the Sydney Writers Festival, were exposed to Slam poetry, our students were thrilled to learn Mathematics at Luna Park and like wise, Science at Taronga Zoo.

Our Legal Studies students left a lasting impression at the Downing Centre Courts.

Our geographers were immersed in field trips, as were our language students in their extended cultural experiences and languages day.

Indeed, our global ties were strengthened with the smooth running of our International Japanese student visit – thank you to Ms Mangraviti and all the staff who enlightened our students outside the classroom with such opportunities.

Under the leadership of Ms Jacobsen and the assistance of Ms Boursouklis and Ms Bellato, creative arts continued to thrive.

Our Dance Ensembles performed at the Sutherland and Ultimo Dance Festivals, our school Choir sang in Encore, at the Sydney Town Hall and most recently School Spectacular.

Our Annual Musical extravaganza was sensational, as was the Year 12 HSC Music Performance Night.

Ms Codey documented our students in her photographs, some of which are on display tonight.

Ms Hatjinikitas led students in creating a textured sculpture of a tree, representative of the diversity within our school as well as a Crochet Red Poppy Frame to mark Remembrance Day – both these works are stunning.

The Home Economics faculty along with hospitality students ran the school café and catered school events, as they are doing so again this evening.

Our students' competitive spirit was once more highlighted on the sporting field.

We were the most represented school in the St George Zone with 122 grade teams entered and we had State representation at all three carnivals, swimming, athletics and cross country.

In ensuring every student is known, valued and cared for.

Excellence in student well-being has continued. Some of the meaningful programs implemented in 2018 include, the stage 4 Mindfulness and Yoga program, and Year 9 retreat.

Whilst students in Years 11 and 12 participated in sleep awareness seminars to support them in undertaking senior school.

Blakehurst Students were involved in High Resolves workshops and in the record breaking World's Biggest Mental Health Lesson.

Our welfare team led by Ms Pappas and consisting of our Year Advisers, in consultation with our Diverse Learning team, LaSTS, Student Support Officers and School Counsellors have worked collaboratively to impact the development of students, supporting their individual welfare needs and academic progress. Leading to a student body that is equipped with meeting the ups and downs of life whilst focusing on attaining the skills to drive their own future.

Despite our new building being in the progressive stage, we have made inroads in ensuring works will continue over the school holidays to improve our school site to meet the needs of our students.

The enclosed back playing field is being opened up, extended and up graded whilst the fields along Foster St will be revitalised with synthetic grass, - the top area being marked with football and futsal lines and the lower section with two new volley ball courts.

Internally we have committed funds to creating a future focused classroom and partitioning an additional room, transforming it into a Maker Space Environment.

On the teaching front we sadly farewell Mr Kumar, Mr Huxley, and Ms Papadeas who are retiring. Mr Tse who is continuing further study and Mr Tsattalios, Miss Mourad and Miss Rammal who are also moving on to new schools.

Our Schools GA's will also be leaving – Mr Lopes and Mr Bonica are taking leave prior to retiring. We will miss all these staff members immensely and thank them for their contribution to Blakehurst High and public education. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

On a positive note Miss Malas was awarded the Teachers Guild Award for her above and beyond commitment to Public Education.

At a holistic level, earlier this year we created stability in student learning by permanently appointing, Miss Dracopoulos, Miss Fotiadis, Mr Skamanis, Mr Hewetson, Ms Jarman, Mr Kemp, and Ms Hawkins.

Adding to this we welcomed two new Head Teachers; Head Teacher PDHPE Mr Petkovski and Ms Pirie Head Teacher Teaching & Learning and most recently our new Deputy Principal Mr Ali. Their positive impact has been felt immediately.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Peachey, Mr Smith, and Ms Butler, who stepped up to act as Deputy and Head Teachers respectively.

We are fortunate to have depth in Leadership, amongst our staff.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Manos, for her unyielding support and the executive for the leadership capacity they exemplify.

On behalf of our school community I would like to extend a thank you to our active P&C members. Their support of student focused initiatives, robust discussions and involvement in appointing staff and shared laughs have been invaluable. The senior

I would like to thank all our SASS staff across the school in all their supporting roles, without them, the daily operation of the school would be impossible.

Importantly I would like to congratulate and thank Ms Rizzo and Ms Thomas for spearheading tonight's presentation and express my appreciation to the many staff who have collaborated and have worked relentlessly to ensure tonight's ceremony is reflective of our school.

2018 began with us implementing our newly collaboratively developed school mission that:

At Blakehurst we inspire students to excel as critical learners, thinkers and champions of diversity to enable them to have a positive impact on their world.

The examples I have mentioned tonight demonstrate that we are indeed achieving this.

In closing, I would like to thank our parents for their partnership and commitment to their children's education,

Most significantly also, thank you to our wonderful students you are our future. Continue to strive forward,

Remember:

Who can stop you?

What can stop you?

You are unstoppable

We are proud of you and believe in you.

As I have been reiterating of late Amazing students, Amazing Staff, Blakehurst an Amazing School.

Following this I would like to thank the following staff for their relentlessness in making Presentation Day and Evening possible and SUCCESSFUL:

Ms Kym Rizzo and Ms Kate Thomas for spearheading the events,

Ms Vicky Manos as overseer,

Mr Peter Slater for organising the trophies ,

Mr Goran Petkovski for cross referencing the trophies,

Ms Carmelina D'Angelo for her extensive administrative expertise and liaising with our guests,

Ms Maxine Cashman printing the programs,

Ms Kerrie Codey for the school photographs,

Ms Margaret Allen, Ms Natalia Dexter and Ms Jacqui Simpson for the collation of awards and coordination of students and awards,

Mr Chris Foster for installing our new screens,

Ms Kim Morris for organising the flowers,

Mr John Lopes and Mr Tony Bonica our GA's for assisting with the setting up of the hall,

Ms Judy Jacobsen and our students for their musical performances,

Mr Stuart Moses for being the MC and our Home Economics team for catering at the end of the night.

I would like to sincerely thank the Blakehurst community for their support and wish colleagues, students and families a joyful and safe break."

Ms Sophie Kapsimalis—Principal

The loftiest towers are built from the ground up

Deputy Principal

Tuesday 11 December we had a very successful Presentation day – our Stage 4 students were recognised for their achievements in the early part of the day and the remainder of the student body were celebrated in the evening event.

We congratulate all our award recipients and join you, their families, in celebrating their wonderful accomplishments.

A few housekeeping matters that will be put in place for 2019:

- We are moving to a five period day. The new bell times are below and published on our website for your information. All students will be given a copy at the start of the school year with their timetables.
- We are phasing out the wearing of tights as part of the school uniform. We are in discussions with Lowes for the construction of new unisex shorts that will be more suitable to the uniform policy. In the meantime, for Wednesday sport, all students have a choice of wearing either plain black track pants or plain black mid length shorts - NO emblems.

Students return dates for 2019:

Years 7, 11, 12 – Wednesday 30 January (NO sport)

Years 8, 9, 10 – Thursday 31 January.

Please ensure you visit Lowes early to purchase any uniform items required well before the starting date to avoid sizes selling out.

I wish all our staff, students and their families a wonderful, well deserved, safe and relaxing holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Ms V Manos—Deputy Principal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Period	Start	Finish
0*	7.45am	8.45am
1	9am	10am
2	10am	11am
Recess	11am	11:30am
3	11:30am	12:30pm
4	12:30pm	1:30pm
Lunch	1:30pm	2pm
5	2pm	3pm

* Years 11 and 12

Wednesday

Period	Start	Finish
0*	7.45am	8.45am
1+	9am	10:30am
Recess	10:30am	11am
2	11am	12pm
Sport Assembly	12pm	12.15pm
Lunch	12.15pm	12:45pm
Sport	12:45pm	2:30pm

* Years 11 and 12
+ including assembly:
7, 8, 9 - 9am - 9.30am
10, 11, 12 - 10am - 10.30am

Wednesday, no sport

Period	Start	Finish
0*	7.45am	8.45am
1+	9am	10:30am
Recess	10:30am	11am
2	11am	12pm
3 sport groups	12pm	1pm
Lunch	1pm	1:30pm
4 sport groups	1:30pm	2:30pm

Wednesday no sport, no assembly

Period	Start	Finish
0*	7.45am	8.45am
1	9am	10.15am
Recess	10.15am	10.45am
2	10.45am	12pm
3 sports groups	12pm	1pm
Lunch	1pm	1.30pm
4 sports groups	1.30pm	2.30pm

English

Hath not a student hands, organs, dimensions...?

A Pop Up Experience

After a long-awaited 2 months of Mr Skamanis hyping up how amazing our prescribed text is when performed, our Year 12 English Advanced class finally attended the Pop-Up Globe Theatre to watch the riveting performance of William Shakespeare's play, The Merchant of Venice.



This 'Human Experience' was far from something familiar to us, as the all-engaging performance was a replica of how plays were performed during Shakespearean times. True to Shakespearean plays, there were male actors who played the role of female characters, slapstick humour, and a lot of witty remarks made by the characters who broke the fourth wall to engage the audience. We were seated closest to the groundlings, and experienced the full force of nature through the opening in the roof and how it would have impacted the performers during the play in the Elizabethan Era. Luckily for us, we didn't have to imagine much as it did rain on the day, and we experienced the professionalism of the actors who although they slipped and slid across the stage, still managed to stay in character and drive the plot forward.



With the audiences' interaction and the ability for the actors to reveal the comedic aspect of the play, it gave all of us a new insight into how The Merchant of Venice was not just a tragedy but yet a tragicomedy. It made us understand the contextual issues of the time, such as gender roles, prejudice and discrimination, and how these would have impacted on the lives of all in The Great Chain of

Being. It made us question the experiences of the oppressed, as well as the actions of those with significant power and dominance.

Through the actors extravagant costumes and ability to break out into song and dance at any moment, this performance was a new 'human experience' for our English class. It was enjoyed by all and definitely assisted in strengthening our understanding of the play, as well as our module on Texts and the Human Experience. We gained new insights into how a text, especially a play from a bygone era, still resonates with a modern audience, and allows us to understand the individual and collective experiences of people through the techniques used to drive the plot.

A big thank you goes out to Mr Skamanis and Ms Mourad for organising and dealing with the stress of taking 20 difficult teenagers across Sydney. It was definitely nothing short of an unforgettable experience.

By: Isabella Temelkovski

From the Library

Premier's Reading Challenge – 2018

Congratulations to all students who completed the challenge.

Ahmet	Selin	7
Bozdas	Daria	7
Cummins	Laura	7
Dimovski	David	7
Du	Leona	7
Forsythe	Isabella	7
Georgakopoulos	Antonia	7
Koulax	Dimitrios	7
Lee	Jeremy	7
Wadhera	Pavan	7
Elmir	Janna	8
Gerayesh	Alyssa	8
Jaafar	Fatima	8
Kwok	Nathan	8
Lin	Irwin	8
Nakis Gkourlias	Yianni	8
Plunkett	Olivia	8
To	Camille	8
Vuong	Natalie	8
Xian	Jasmine	8
Chen	Theresa	9
Dennaoui	Daaid	9
Ho	Andie	9
Liu	Ivan	9
Wadhera	Jeevan	9

PRC Advisory Panel

Congratulations to Anika P (9) and Andie H (9) who were selected to be on the PRC Advisory panel. They have already joined the online forum to discuss PRC with other members. In 2019, they will be involved in further Advisory activities aimed at making the PRC more engaging for High School students.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break. Relax, grab a good book and keep on reading!

Until next year, Happy reading!

Mr J. Darlington—Teacher Librarian

CAPA

Term 4 has been a very exciting and a very busy term in the CAPA Faculty.

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

The most exciting event this term!!

23 very dedicated BHS students participated in the Schools Spectacular this year. We had 22 students 7- 12 in the combined Secondary Choir – 4 of whom were 2018 Year 12 students who returned after their HSC to be part of our choir for one final gig!!

And of course our very own Jason Tong – Year 10, who was a featured artist in the Hip Hop Dance Group.

What an amazing experience for us all! Ms Bourtsouklis and I were thrilled to once again be part of this wonderful event with our students.

5 days of intense rehearsals and then 2 days of matinee and evening concerts.

Congratulations to our fantastic students who showed resilience, persistence and stamina!! Not to mention their outstanding behaviour!

It was an absolute pleasure to be with you all!

Can't wait to do it all again next year!!



VISUAL ARTS

YEAR 12 2018

Congratulations must go to Ria Stephenson and Carmen Feng. Their Bodies of Work are included in the Art Rules Exhibition at Hazelhurst Art Gallery beginning 15 December. Well done! Here are the Major Works of our wonderfully talented Year 12 Visual Arts students in 2018! Congratulations to you all!!



Ria Stephenson, "De Profundis" (From the Depths) Series of 3 Paintings



Carmen Feng, "Waiting", 2 of a series of 5 Drawings



Catherine Dokos, "Relativism With Clouds:Istonia" (Ancestral Stories)

Series of 5 Oil Paintings



Cindy Yeap, "Memories", Series of 4 Drawings



Samantha Spyridopoulos, "Unconditional Bonds", Series of 5 paintings



Angelina Liu, "This is Where I Want To Be", Series of 7 Watercolour Drawings

Thank you to our fantastic CAPA Staff for another amazing year!

On behalf of us all – thank you to all the hardworking students for a wonderful year of creativity and learning.

Merry Christmas to everyone!
Enjoy a well-earned and restful holiday!

Ms J Jacobsen and the CAPA Team

LOTE

La Grillade French Excursion

On Thursday December 6, the Year 8 French class went to La Grillade for lunch. The students were treated to a delectable banquet of gourmet French cuisine which included escargot, beef bourguignon and crème caramel. The experience for our students was truly merveilleux!!



Russo's Italian Excursion

On Tuesday December 4, the Year 7/8 Italian classes went to Russo's Pizzeria in Peakhurst for lunch. The students were treated to an endless array of gourmet pizzas and the most delicious pasta. Just when everyone thought they could eat no more, the friendly staff presented each student with a delectable slice of nutella pizza and gelato!! Students left the pizzeria claiming "there would be no dinner tonight miss." We would like to thank the Year 8 Adviser Mr Kemp for coming along with us. Una gita indimenticabile!



Little Snail Restaurant

On Tuesday November 20 our two Year 7 French classes went to the Little Snail Restaurant for lunch. Students were treated to a scrumptious menu of French traditional cuisine such as escargot (snails), salmon, chocolate mousse and creme caramel.

A very enthusiastic group of students voraciously ate every morsel and commented that the food was magnifique!! A huge thank you to Mr Tsattalios our Year 7 Adviser for accompanying us on this excursion.



Languages Report

What a wonderful end to a Year of hard work. Our HSC results reflect the commitment and passion of the language teachers here at Blakehurst High School. Chrysanthi Diasinos came first in Modern Greek Beginners but equally as impressive was Wendy Li, a year 11 student who was accelerated and sat her Japanese Continuers Examination this year and scored 96%. What is even more incredible is as there was no HSC class for Continuers Japanese in 2018 she was taught and extended as part of the Year 11 cohort with her teacher Ms Lao giving her many extra hours of tuition in her own time.

I must congratulate not only the students but also their teachers Ms Fotiadis and Ms Lao.

Overall, the majority of our language students scored either a Band 6 or Band 5 in their respective languages. Very rewarding results.

Apart from these incredible results, I must thank the languages staff for their untiring commitment to the students here at Blakehurst High School. They organised restaurant visits to enrich the student's cultural experiences as well as working on the new K-10 Syllabuses that will be implemented next year.

I wish them all a restful and peaceful break and look forward to the many exciting things we have planned for next year.

Mrs A Mangraviti—Head Teacher Languages

Student Leadership

On Thursday 13th December, a combined group of students from the various leadership groups within the school made their way to Murrumburrah High School. This initiative started at the leadership-planning day in 2017 where representatives of the SRC, Junior and Senior Prefects, Interact and The Environment Team all agreed that a joint project would be a good way to finish the year. All that was now needed was a good cause to support and this came about when Ms Wiryakasuma met Ms Masson a teacher from Murrumburrah High School at a professional Learning day. It was there that Ms Wiryakasuma learnt about the hardships the school was facing due to the drought. Murrumburrah is an agricultural school consisting of 154 students who were finding it difficult to fund their well-established agricultural program. The student leaders thought this was a great cause as the drought is affecting so many people throughout Australia.

After several meetings, it was decided SRC would make Christmas cards that were sold to Blakehurst students who then wrote personal messages of encouragement to the Murrumburrah High School students, The Senior and Junior Prefects were in charge of fundraising holding gelato day, spider day, cakes for the staff, and a sausage sizzle. This wonderful effort along with the money raised by the SRC from card selling raised \$1600, which was presented to the high school on Thursday. And last but not least Interact who coordinated the gifts that were donated and wrapped for the High School. A gift was purchased for each of the 154 students what a mammoth task.

Although it was a long way to go to deliver the presents, well wishes and money it was an incredible experience for our students many of whom had never visited the country before. It was sad to see how dry it was and how thin the sheep and cattle looked but overall I feel they gained a newfound appreciation of their life here in Sydney. They also learnt a lot about what it was like to go to an agricultural school and definitely learnt a lot about breeding cattle.

We are hoping to continue this partnership and perhaps a reciprocal visit may take place next year.





Prefects Report

Stanwell Tops to enable them to bond more effectively as a group, develop new skills and plan for the upcoming year. It was a very motivational, enlightening and really fun experience for all prefects as we became a collective to learn more about our roles as Senior Prefects, to develop our leadership as well as communication skills in order to fulfil these roles important roles and also to gain an insight into how our year of being the School's leaders would be like in order to prepare us.

The camp even though it was a short one, offered us many great learning experiences. By further developing our leadership skills through fun enjoyable games and activities, we were able to bond as a group, work collaboratively with mentors from burnbright to develop our skills, learn about our responsibilities and plan for the future.

The camp was great as this experience allowed us to all create and grow stronger relations with each other. We the prefects aim to work together to overcome many challenges, be relentless and achieve many great things over the next year.

Overall, the Prefect Camp was a memorable and greatly valuable learning experience that set us up into the right path of what we can do as active members of our school community, as well as providing us with lifelong lessons that will allow us to continuously flourish and develop as leaders. We would like to say thank you to Ms Maricic and Mrs Mangraviti for organising this camp for us, as well as to Mr Roff and Mrs Camilleri for coming to support and we really appreciate everything they do for us. It was encouraging to see our whole group so eager to further engage in the school in order to make BHS a better place, helping our wider school community.

We look forward to the many opportunities and experiences that come with this role. We, the Prefects of 2018/2019 are very honoured to be accepted as senior leaders and look forward to implementing all that we learnt at Camp and more. We will keep you, the Blakehurst High School Community, updated about the projects, activities and fundraising events the Senior Prefects will be holding in the near future and really can't wait.

In Unity We Inspire

Biyush D

Today our Junior Prefects held a Childhood Cancer Awareness Fundraiser. The students held a bake stall, with yummy cakes, biscuits and doughnuts. Our boys held a Mini Soccer Competition in the gym, while students tried hard to guess the number of lollies in the enormous lolly jar. There was also plenty of pink and yellow fairy floss being prepared by our very able teachers Ms Lao and Ms Morfitis. A huge thank you also to Ms Fotiadis and Mr Tsattalios, for giving up their time to assist with activities. More importantly our Junior Prefects raised over \$2,000 for a great cause, with the fantastic support they received from the entire Blakehurst High School Community as a whole. Well done Blakehurst!!

Junior Prefects