“A Busy Start to the Year”  
As Term 1 2013 draws to an end it is interesting to reflect on how busy the school has been. Apart from the Teaching and Learning which takes place on a day to day basis in the classroom, some of the special programs/events conducted so far this term include:

- A Meet the Teachers Evening for parents of Year 7 organised by Mr Van Munster and Ms Koutsoukos,
- Year 9 Laptop information night for students and parents, organised by Mr Moses, Ms Gerry, Mr Fernandez, Mr Smith and Ms Berrett,
- The “U Turn the Wheel” program for Year 11 students conducted by Rotary, organised by Mr Slater,
- The Year 7, 2014, Open Information Evening, organised by Ms Camilleri and Mr Roff (our 2014 year 7 Student Advisers), and conducted by a large number of Blakehurst staff and students,
- Years 7 to 10 Clean Up Australia Day organised by Ms Camilleri and the Environmental Team
- National Stop Bullying Day activities organised by Ms Nozica and the SRC Members
- School Photographs organised by Ms Maricic and assisted by Ms Thearle
- A very successful school swimming carnival organised by Mr Smith and the PDHPE staff
- A number of talks to the senior school by visiting presenters including Senator Penny Wong Minister for Finance and Mr Daryl Melham, our local Federal Member – (see report below),
- A weeklong visit by 20 students and staff from a school on the island of Kyushu, Japan,
- A morning tea organised by Ms Everett for all our Indigenous students and their parents,
- An evacuation and lockdown practice was conducted by the staff and students led by Mr Owens, to ensure everyone knows what to do in the case of an emergency,
- Two Parent and Citizen (P&C) meetings were conducted, including the AGM,
- A delegation of Korean teachers visited the school.

These programs are organised to help educate the whole student, as well as to keep the school community well informed. As you are no doubt aware, these programs/events are not possible without the hard work of staff. Thank you to everyone who has undertaken these extra duties in Term 1.

**Respect and Responsibility.**

At a number of assemblies this year I have addressed the students regarding the values of respect and responsibility. I have pointed out that the Blakehurst High School community values students that have:

a) Respect for:

- Other students and the public; by ensuring that they treat others like they would like to be treated
- Teachers; to be polite and follow instructions
- Parents
- Property; both of other students and school property
- Themselves; by not taking part in high risk activities.

b) A responsibility to:

- Come to school every day and attend all classes, as attendance is a precursor to learning
- Work to the very best of their ability, and to strive for that extra bit of improvement
- Complete all homework and assignments
- Allow others to learn; to not disrupt learning.
- Help stop bullying at school

Parents may wish to discuss these values with your child.
New Electronic Sign
By now, you would have probably seen the new electronic LED sign at the front of the school on Woniora Road. This sign was partly funded by the 2012 Year 12 cohort, as their parting gift to the school. Thanks Year 12 2012. The sign is environmentally friendly being powered by its own solar panel. Our aim is to keep the school community constantly informed by updating the sign regularly, which can be done remotely using wireless technology. Regular updating of information was more difficult with the old signage as the General Assistant needed to climb a ladder to change the messages; a WH&S issue.

Senator Wong’s Visit
The school was fortunate enough to host Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Mr Daryl Melham, our local Federal Member, in Week 6 this Term.

Senator Wong addressed our senior Economics and Legal Studies students on such issues as the upcoming Federal budget; Australia’s Trade relations with the rest of the world and Fiscal Policy’s role in Economic management, as well as, contemporary Legal issues.

Senator Wong had the students in the palm of her hand when she discussed these issues, as well as discussing her family history and her career as a Politician and Barrister.

The feedback from students and teachers was very positive, as was Senator Wong’s re our students – she said our students ‘were very intelligent and asked much better questions than the press!’ Senator Wong was also very impressed by our Hospitality students for their barista skills.

Thanks to all staff who made the visit such a success – I am sure the memories of this visit will stay with the students for some time.

P&C
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&C for their ongoing support. Just a reminder that the P&C meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Staff Common Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams
Year 12 half yearly exams will be conducted over the last two and a half weeks of Term 1. Reports from these exams will be produced early in Term 2. Most of the Year 12 students have been working very diligently this year, and it is imperative all students get serious with their studies now, as there is only just two Terms left of school until they Graduate and sit for the HSC.

Up Coming Events – Dates to Remember-
- April 29 – School Development Day 1 for Teachers – focus is on the Australian National Curriculum.
- April 30 – School Development Day 2 for Teachers – focus is on First Aid and CPR.
- May 1 – All Students Return to School
- May 7 – Parent/Teacher Night Years 9-12 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm
- May 8 – P&C Meeting
- May 13 – Parent/Teacher Night Years 7&8 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
- May 14, 15, 16, – NAPLAN Years 7 & 9
- June 6 – School Athletics Carnival

School Fees
Thanks to the many families who have already paid their school fees for 2013. These fees assist greatly in the running of the school, and all fees received are used to enhance your child’s education this year. General contributions are used to pay for things such as photocopying, textbooks, teaching resources, library books etc. The school would simply not have enough money to pay for all of these things without parents paying the General Contribution. So again, thank you. Subject fees vary in their amount based on the amount of consumables used in the teaching of the subject. As a result, some subjects have NO fees, but others such as Visual Arts, Woodwork, Construction, Food Technology etc. have higher fees due to the resources/consumables required and used by the students undertaking these subjects. The P&C Student Enhancement Fee is used by the P&C to fund worthwhile educational projects/resources around the school, again to improve the educational outcomes of students this year.

If you have trouble in paying your fees, please feel free to contact Kim Morris (Office Manager) or myself to organise payment in instalments, or to discuss other arrangements. All information provided will be held in confidence.
Please let us know
Please contact the school and ask to speak to either your child’s Student Adviser, one of the Deputy Principals (Mrs Paton or Mr Ovens) or myself if we need to know something about your child’s health and/or wellbeing. This is particularly important if circumstances for you or your child have changed and we need to notify their teachers or we need to put other processes/procedures into place to ensure they are monitored effectively.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR MARCH: How much sleep is enough?
We all know that sleep is important for general health, for growth and development and for emotional well-being. You may also know that important memory processes take place while you are sleeping, ensuring you retain what you are learning and studying.

Perhaps you have heard that teenagers need between nine to ten hours of sleep per night. But where does this come from and how valid is this claim? In 1980, Mary Carskadon of Stanford sequestered a group of adolescents in the university’s sleep laboratory for several days, letting them sleep for as long as they wanted, up to 10 hours. She found that the teenagers slept just over nine hours, with very little variation. This single “naturalistic” study is the primary basis for the adolescent sleep recommendation. However some researchers argue that just because teenagers slept nine hours when left alone does not mean that this is the best thing for them, just like letting people eat whatever they want is not necessarily the best thing for their health. So there is no definitive answer at this point in time.

The amount of sleep needed by teenagers is most likely very individual, just like it is for adults. It is probably safe to assume that adolescents need more sleep than adults and that the average for most people is at least 8 hours of sleep per night. Pay attention to the signs and have students listen to their body. If they lie down in bed and fall asleep instantly, this is a sign they are not getting enough sleep for their body. It should take at least 15 minutes to fall asleep. If they wake up in the morning and are feeling exhausted, then check all lifestyle factors: are they getting enough sleep, eating healthily and getting enough exercise?

If teenagers are sleeping in for many hours on a weekend, unfortunately this does not mean they are “catching up” on their sleep. According to University of Texas Southwestern sleep specialist Dr. Gregory Carter, when we think we’re catching up on sleep, what we’re really doing is messing with our circadian cycle -- the body’s internal clock which dictates sleep patterns. Excessive sleeping in is in fact a signal that during the week students need to go to bed earlier. The aim is to work out the optimum bed-time so that the need to catch up on large amounts of sleep on the weekend is eliminated.

There is nothing wrong with having a power-nap in the afternoon when students get home from school, as long as the nap is no longer than 40 minutes. A short nap can help students regain their energy levels and allow them to focus on the work they have to do that evening. However, a longer nap will also disrupt sleeping patterns for that night.

More on how to develop better sleeping patterns in the next newsletter item! Remember students, that on nights where you don’t have very much homework, you can build your learning skills by working through one of the units at http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au/. Check out the unit on Lifestyle and Balance to learn more about sleep and other lifestyle factors for success.
Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -

Mr B Lester
Principal
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S Report

Parent Teacher Nights
Parent Teacher Nights will be held at the start of Term 2. Years 9 to 12 will be held on Tuesday 7 May from 4 to 8pm and Years 7 & 8 will be held on Monday 13 May from 4 to 7pm. This is an opportunity for parents to speak to their child's teachers about their learning progress. Students will be given a “booking sheet” on which to make appointments for their parents.

Bullying
Like all high schools, we have had some instances of bullying this year although most students behave responsibly. We have had a focus on bullying during Term 1, with presentations on assemblies by Senior Prefects, the SRC and St George Leagues Club players. At BHS, bullying is defined as any intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure.

Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Please support your child by talking to them about bullying and encouraging them to speak out when they witness bullying. Research shows that bullying usually stops if bystanders intervene. If they can't intervene then reporting the problem is the next best solution.

Sickness During the School Day
Students will, occasionally, become sick during the school day. In these instances the school must be aware of where students are. Students may NOT contact parents to collect them. This must be done via Mrs Paton or Front Office staff. Students must be collected by a parent from the Front Office.

Student Attendance and Punctuality
All students are expected to attend school each day and remain at school for the whole day. In some cases, there are special family circumstances or unavoidable appointments that require a student to miss part of or a whole day. In such cases, the school is required to obtain a note / SMS from the parent or guardian of the student explaining the absence, or for a partial day, a note detailing the time in which the student is late or needs to leave early. The school cannot dismiss students from school early who do not have written parental permissions.

Roll call is at 8:55am each morning. It is essential that all students arrive in time to respond to the bell and make their way to Roll Call punctually. In those unavoidable circumstances where a student is to arrive at school late, the school requires a note from home to explain the late arrival. Year 11 and Year 12 students must arrive at 7:45am for the start of period zero. The school will continue to send SMS messages to alert parents of student lateness and absence.

Jumpers, Jackets and Shoes
Both the warmer black jackets and school jumpers are available from Lowes. Make sure that all students have appropriate warm clothing for the start of Term 2. No other jumpers or jackets are acceptable.

As always, students are required to wear black, leather, lace up shoes to meet the uniform rules and the Work Health Safety Standards. Canvas shoes do not meet the WHS guidelines. Please ensure that all students have appropriate footwear for the start of term.

Lyn Paton
Deputy Principal
A Message from NSW Health re Vaccinations...

......Each year NSW Health Units offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based program. If you have any medical queries re the vaccinations, please contact the Public Health Unit on 9382 8333.

The 2013 Vaccination clinic will include Year 7 male & female students and Year 9 male only students. Also on offer will be the HPV vaccine (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine) to any female student in Year 8 with an incomplete course commenced whilst in Year 7 in 2012. (The consent forms for these Year 8 students will be brought to the school with the school vaccination nurses on the day).

Parent Information Kits have been sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to read all the information provided and complete the consent form. Only consent forms signed by the parent/guardian will be accepted. To ensure your child is vaccinated, please return all signed consent forms to the school as soon as possible after receiving them. If you have not received this kit, please ask your child if they have received it. Spare Information Kits are available from Mrs Smith in the Languages Staffroom.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason, may do so in writing to the school Principal. The procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealthImmunisationschool-prog/withdraw-consent.asp - Please note that for the HPV vaccine only: parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (including the 10 digits) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s health information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and link to the National Cervical Screening Program.

What happens if your child misses a dose of the vaccine at school? Provided you have returned a signed consent form, any student who is absent from school and missed a dose vaccine, will be caught up with at the next scheduled vaccination clinic at your school throughout the year.

A Record of Vaccination...

......will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this Record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do no Receive this Record of Vaccination. It is also recommended that you inform your GP so they can update your child’s records. If your child is absent on any vaccination day, they may catch up in the following session.

Vaccinations Year 7 ALL

Visit 1
08/03/13
- Hepatitis B vaccine (2 dose course)
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Booster (Whooping cough)
- HPV dose 1 of 3

Visit 2
31/05/13
- HPV (dose 2 of 3)
- Varicella (chicken pox-single dose)
- HPV & Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis vaccine catch-ups

Visit 3
11/10/13
- Hepatitis B vaccine (dose 2 for those who received dose 1)
- HPV (dose 3)
- HPV & Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis vaccine catch ups

Vaccinations Year 8

Visit 1
08/03/13
- HPV -ONLY those Year 8 Female students who have an incomplete course that was commenced in Year 7 2012

Visit 2
31/05/13
- HPV - ONLY Year 8 Female students who missed any vaccination in Visit 1 can receive catch up at this visit.

Visit 3
11/10/13
- HPV - ONLY Year 8 Female students who missed any vaccination in Visits 1 & 2 can receive catch up at this visit.

Vaccinations Year 9 MALE ONLY

Visit 1
08/03/13
- HPV dose 1 of 3

Visit 2
31/05/13
- HPV dose 2 of 3

Visit 3
11/10/13
- HPV dose 3 of 3

Mrs J Smith
Welfare Coordinator
From the CAREERS Adviser

Careers at Blakehurst High has gone Digital!

The new Blakehurst High Careers website continues to evolve with an improved format and introductory videos that change regularly. Information in sections such as the Message Board, Vacancies and Scholarships pages in the ‘For Students’ section are continually updated so both students and parents are invited to regularly check the information they contain.

At this time of the year, I am receiving information about Cadetships being offered by several large and important firms for this Year 12 students, 2013. This will only continue to grow as the year goes on, so it is important for those students wishing to undertake a Cadetship in Engineering, the Financial Sector or Information Systems to constantly check this information.

Similarly, I am updating the “Vacancies” page as I receive information from potential employers. There is usually a quick turn around with these job vacancies, so if interested, this page also needs to be checked regularly. From time-to-time, local employers also contact me with part-time or casual work and the information will be included in this section also. I usually put an announcement in the daily newsletter, so students should make sure they listen for these announcements.

The Easy Way to Get a Tax File Number

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over, the opportunity to apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account, managing their superannuation or deferring University fees. Please note that TFN applications are processed twice a term, at Week 5 & Week 10.

Applying for a TFN through school is easier because students do not need to show Mrs Centorrino the Careers Adviser, identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form is available from Mrs Centorrino and students can complete it at home. The form requires information such as the student’s name, address and date of birth. Students also need to provide the following details:

**Students Born in Australia will need to provide their:**
- Birth Certificate Number, State of issue and Year of registration OR
- Australian Passport Number and Date of issue

**Students Born Overseas will need to provide their:**
- Overseas Passport Number and Country of issue, OR
- Australian Citizenship Certificate Number and Date of issue OR
- Australian Passport Number and Date of issue

It is important that the application form is fully completed and signed by the student. All information provided on the form will remain confidential.

The school will certify the application form by cross-checking against the information held on their records. Students are not required to show identifying documentation to the school or the ATO.

Students will receive their TFN from the ATO via a notification letter sent to their postal address. This will be sent within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

**Enquiring on Your Child’ Behalf**

Due to privacy provisions, parents of children aged 14 or older may enquire about their children’s tax affairs only if they are registered as an authorised contact with the ATO. After your child has received their TFN they can authorise you by phoning the ATO on 13 28 61 between 8:00am and 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

**More Information**

If you have any questions, phone 13 28 61 between 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday.
YOUR PATH TO SYDNEY UNI

AN INFORMATION EVENING FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Save the date for Your path to Sydney Uni: an information evening for students and parents, a free event at Revesby Workers’ Club.

WHAT IS THIS NIGHT ABOUT?

Please encourage your interested students, parents and teachers to come along and hear:

- current students talk about life at Uni
- information about pathways, scholarships, and study options at Sydney Uni
- Keynote speaker Corey Payne (pictured), NSW Young Australian of the Year 2013, Churchill Fellow and former Canterbury Bulldogs player, talk about his study choices
- university staff and current students answering your questions.

This year we will also have a student panel who will be answering questions on the night. Ask the panel a short question

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>Wednesday 22 May 2013</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
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<td>Refreshments will be available from 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>Venue:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2B Brett St, Revesby (see map)</td>
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<th>RSVP:</th>
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Please pass on this event information to other teachers and students.

If you have any other questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us on Future Students Helpline 1300 362 006 or email future.students@sydney.edu.au

Mrs Centorrino
Careers Adviser
INDUSTRIAL ARTS Update

On Monday March 25th, 9 students, from Year 9 to Year 11, successfully completed the Work Health and Safety Induction Course.

They now have a solid understanding of the legislative requirements relating to safety and can easily identify hazards in the workplace and be able to put measures in place to minimise risk. All students now have a nationally recognised qualification that will allow them entry onto most construction sites.

Here is a challenge for all; the image to the right has a number of unsafe work practices. See how many you can identify.

Craftsmanship...
... has become one of our key areas for improvement for all students in Industrial Arts this year. Junior students are focusing on accuracy, care and quality finishing. We are paying far more attention to using hand tools accurately and completing tasks correctly first time.

Senior ICT students...
... are being coached closely by Mr Van Munster. He is demanding attention to detail and pushing students to undertake work now rather than leave it to the last minute as has happened in the past. Students are already attending extra lessons in the afternoons to ensure their work is completed well and on time. Mr Van Munster is also using some of this time to improve the workroom; making the tin shed a workroom far more conducive to quality work.

Multimedia students...
... are also showing their determination to achieve. The students themselves have taken the initiative to create an Animation Studio at one end of the Cottage. They have designed, cleaned and painted already and are organising props at present. We will try to support them through the purchase of lights and a large fan for wind scenes.

Design and Engineering students...
... in stage 5 are again involved with the Formula 1 competition this year. Cars have been designed by students and trial racing will be started early next term. Students will be designing their own wheels this year and printing them on the school new 3D printers. The competition involves management, marketing, sponsorship, design, engineering and graphics. Schools compete against each other in elimination series. This competition is International. So far the best we have achieved is the State Finals, Good luck to the students this year. It would be great to see a team from Blakehurst in the Nationals.

Students from years 10 & 11 have recently taken the opportunity to participate in the WHS (workplace health and safety) course run at school. This course is for all students and is essential for those going on work experience. Those who pass will achieve their “White cards” which will allow them to access industrial sites while on work placement. More importantly it will help to ensure they are safe in the work force and in their lives ahead. Stay Safe Everyone, Enjoy the Holidays!

Stuart Moses & Staff
Technical & Applied Studies—(TAS IA)
Peer Support Team

Peer Support began in Week 4 of Term 1. We are only half way through the 10 week program and will continue through Term 2. The Peer Support program is highly beneficial to both the Year 7 students and the Year 10 leaders. Here are some reflections on the experience so far from a Year 7 and Year 10 perspective.

**Year 7 Perspective by Sally Ibrahim**

So far this year, I have learnt a lot in Peer Support. Our leaders are teaching us to bond with new people and are helping us to make new friends. This is very helpful because sometimes it is hard to make new friends by yourself because you are shy or uncomfortable. Luckily, the Peer Support Leaders encourage us to become friends. Peer Support has also been extremely helpful in directing students where to go if they need specific help in some area of the school. One of my favourite activities was playing a game to learn everyone in the class’ name. We had to pass a ball around to each other and say the name of the person we passed it to. After that game I made so many more friends.

**Year 10 Perspective by Remy Blatch-Williams**

So far, being a Peer Support Leader has been a memorable experience. Although it was a little nerve racking at the start, when we were getting up in front of 18 Year 7 students that we had never met before. It wasn’t long until we began to get to know them. Recently, we have been increasing their understanding of the school and the teachers as well as talking to them about what it takes to work as a team and what they are good at. Being a Peer Support Leader has reminded me of how I first felt when I started high school and makes me feel good to think that I am helping someone become more comfortable at school and less afraid of meeting new people.

Kate Lambert
Peer Support Co–ordinator

**Transition Adviser’s REPORT**

As the first term draws to a close, we can see that the Stage 5 VET Course participants are engaged and doing themselves and the school proud.

Next term some of our Year 10 and Year 11 students will have been placed in Get into VET courses two days a week. This allows them to engage in a course that is career oriented, while continuing to study at school with their peers.

The Yamaha Partnership is continuing with the initial presentation to Year 9 being scheduled early in Term 2. Later in the year, work experience opportunities will be available through this partnership.

We continue to support students who need resumes, as they wish to apply for part time work, and to show students how to initiate contact with the organisations that can help them to connect with Apprenticeship providers in a variety of trades.

Parents/ Carers should contact the Careers/Transition Team if they have any enquiries about this or other related matters.

Mrs Janelle Lyons
Transition Adviser

Braydon Pilot was Blakehurst High School’s Winner of the Yamaha Student Grand Prix in 2012. Congratulations Braydon!
HSIE Roundup

As the term draws to a close it is time to reflect on all of the achievements of staff and students in the HSIE area. The new National Curriculum is currently being trialed with both Year 7 and Year 9 in History in preparation for its compulsory implementation in 2014. This involves the writing of programs and assessment tasks that will engage and challenge students as we move forward. The feedback from staff involved has been very positive and students are enjoying the opportunity to try the new curriculum.

Excursions
HSIE students have also been involved in a range of excursions with Year 10 attending the Urban Growth and Decline fieldtrip; (you can see the report below). Years 11 & 12 Geographers have been in the field studying biophysical environments at Cronulla and Towra Point. The senior Legal and Economics students also had the chance to hear from the Finance Minister Penny Wong and were able to engage in excellent discussion with the minister.

Competitions
Last week the Australian Geography Competition was held and students across Year 10 and 11 participated as they put themselves against the rest of the state. The results should be released next term and we expect some outstanding results. The Australian History competition will be held later in the year as will the Economics and Business Studies competition, so students should stay tuned for that.

ANZAC Day
On the 2nd of May the school’s annual Anzac Day Ceremony will take place. This ceremony is planned and run by the Year 9 Gifted and Talented class as it has been for the past 10 years. They are responsible for deciding on the specific theme, this year being the 70th Anniversary of the Burma Railway, as well as producing a powerpoint presentation. At the ceremony ex-servicemen and women from South Hurstville RSL are expected to attend and present the Blakehurst Peace Prize. This is presented to the Blakehurst student who has contributed the most to the creation of a harmonious and peaceful school environment. The Year 9 students will also be writing an essay for the South Hurstville RSL Anzac Day essay competition with place getters earning cash prizes for their efforts. The RSL provides $500 for the Peace Prize and Essay Prizes, which is very much appreciated.

Year 10 Geography Field Study Visit
On Tuesday the 26th March 10HG6 and Miss Pappas went to the Sydney Harbour Foreshore area so we could advance our studies on the implications of urban growth and decline on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. The day consisted of travelling around the Sydney Harbour foreshore area including Circular Quay, Barangaroo and Pyrmont. This excursion was very beneficial to our studies relating to the implications of urban growth and decline on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour.

We started the day at Circular Quay where we met our guide, Steve from Observatory Hill. There we sent a few fellow class mates to interview locals about their views on the implications of urban growth and decline in the area. Whilst they were interviewing the rest of the class participated in fieldwork activities including; water quality testing, noise levels, wind speed, light luminosity and heritage conservation. Afterwards, we boarded a ferry and it took us on a tour of the harbour. Whilst on that tour we marked on our maps the different types of land use around the harbour. The areas we were able to see were; Balmain, Pyrmont, and the development of Barangaroo. The ferry dropped us off at Sydney Aquarium. From there we walked down along the Pier towards the development of Barangaroo. Once at the development we discussed issues that could come about from the development and how to prevent/minimise these issues. An issue that we discovered was noise pollution. We said that a way to prevent noise pollution was for surrounding buildings to have double glazed windows and doors. Also that construction can only take place during a certain time in the day. We continued to walk around the Pyrmont foreshore area where we discovered issues from urban growth and decline. We learnt about groups reacting to these issues such as the EPA and resident action groups. Looking at these issues first hand helped us understand the implications of urban growth and decline in the Pyrmont area. To end the day, we went to Observatory Hill’s classroom where we met up with Hurstville Boys High School. We were presented with an oral summary of the day.

To conclude, our excursion taught us and helped us understand the implications of urban growth and decline on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. It was a great day and we all enjoyed ourselves.

Pauline Beard
Danielle Rossen
10HG6 Students
On Friday the 15th of March, all Year 11 students at Blakehurst High School took part in a special program run by our local Rotary Club that has been running consecutively for the past 4 years at Blakehurst high.

The program was called *U Turn The Wheel* and this program consisted of various safety and awareness workshops, and included 6 presentations given by the NRMA, YouthSafe, Trent Driving School, Police Highway Patrol, Ambulance Paramedics and St George Youth Services. Important messages were taken away by Year 11 students that day from all the presentations given, but what I found to be the most important message came from the YouthSafe presentation.

The main message from YouthSafe was to have the right attitude and reduce distractions whilst driving, as many accidents are caused by unnecessary distractions and attitudes based on youths thinking accidents will never happen to them. However, the program overall was highly successful and I’m sure that all of Year 11, as well as I, have gained a greater understanding of driver safety and awareness.

*Its Your Choice To Stay Alive!*

Highway Patrol Officers
Senior Constables Bruce Whitwell & John Taylor
Martin Tabone and Year 11 Students.

...Madaleine Fitzmaurice
Year 11
Minister for Finance
Senator for South Australia

On Wednesday March 6, 2013 Ms Penny Wong, came to Blakehurst High School to talk to Year 11 and 12 Economics and Legal Studies students in a seminar styled set-up in the school library.

Along with Mr Daryl Melham, Member for Banks, the 2 highly recognised politicians were warmly introduced upon arrival by our Vice and School Captains.

Ms Penny Wong is an Australian Senator from South Australia and is the Commonwealth Minister for Finance and Deregulation. She is a member of the Labor Party and the Deputy Leader of the government in the Senate as well as being the first Asian-born Federal Minister. While Ms Wong was visiting the students, she talked along the topics of her upbringing in Australia, her role as Finance Minister and finally concluding with a Q & A.

Ms Wong was born in Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia and immigrated to Australia when she was 8 years of age. One thing that was memorable from the talk about her upbringing was the amount of racism in Australia at the time in the 70’s and 80’s and the misunderstanding of foreign culture. Being the only person with an Asian background during school, Ms Wong attracted a lot of insulting and derogatory comments.

During Ms Wong’s talk with the students, the majority of the time was allocated to a Q & A session. Some of the questions asked were; “Do you find it hard being a female in politics?”, “How do you propose the federal budget comes back into a surplus?” and “Why is the Liberal party the preferred party in the current polls?” just to name a few. Ms Wong answered all questions in a highly educated manner, straight to the point and in an understandable context. One comment made by Ms Wong was that she prefers answering questions from school and university students as they relate to ‘real’ politics and current issues. The Blakehurst High students definitely put difficult questions up for Ms Wong and from this, everyone took away something valuable from this very privileged experience.

….. Adam Craig
Year 11 Economics Student

Mr P Slater
Head Teacher HSIE/Ski Trip Co–ordinator
News from SCIENCE

Teaching Staff
The faculty has had a busy term. Ms Georgopoulou, who transferred to BHS this year, has settled in like she was never away! Mr White returned as a casual on a couple of occasions – much to the delight of his old students, and Mr Hewetson was back as well – but this time, not as a student teacher, but as a fully-fledged teacher.

The Science Competition
Mr Estephan has once again organised for BHS to be involved in the International Science Competition. This prestigious event takes place on the first Wednesday in June, and all students in top streamed classes are urged to compete in the multiple choice format test. The school has a rich history of participation since the 1980s, with many students achieving High Distinction certificates. (see information below from Mr Estephan).

What’s happening in Year 9?
This term Year 9 have been studying Chemistry and Forensic Science. They have revised the Scientific Method and have learned about the atom, the Periodic Table; its history and its design. Recently, students have explored forensic techniques such as fingerprinting, blood spatter and microscope techniques. They can identify trace evidence and list the skills and qualities necessary in an accomplished forensic scientist.

Science Competition 2013
In 2013, Science students at BHS will again be sitting for ICAS—an annual Science competition organised and marked by UNSW, and which attracts numerous students from throughout Australia and the Pacific Region.

The competition tests students’ abilities across a wide range of scientific and process-related skills, all the while providing them with an opportunity to compare their skills in an external-testing environment. Participants will also receive comprehensive individualised reports, highlighting his/her particular strengths and weaknesses in the subject.

In 2013, all students in top Science classes will be asked to sit for ICAS Science competition. Students from mainstream classes can also participate.

The exam will be held on Wednesday the 5th of June, Period 1, in the school’s main hall. It will run for one hour.

For more information on the competition, check the ICAS main website on http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about

Information on ICAS 2013 is also listed on the school’s Moodle Website.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further queries.

…..Mr K Estephan
Science Department

Linda O’Brien
Head Teacher Science
Year 11
By now all Frameworks have completed 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. Work placement is a requirement of the Board of Studies and if students do not complete 70hrs over the 2year course they will receive an N-Award in their subject.

NOTE: Construction students must complete the WorkCover white card course to enable them to complete Work Placement.

They will be issued with a card that must be on their person when on the work sites. Anyone who hasn't completed the Work Cover white card course must seek an external agency for training. This will cost approximately $120. All students were given the opportunity to complete the training on Monday 25th March with Mr S Black.

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:

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 students have assignments due while they are on work placement they must arrange for the assignment to be handed in on the due date, via email or through a friend. If the task is an in class task students must make alternate arrangements with the subject teacher prior to going on work placement. If you have any concerns regarding Work Placement please do not hesitate contacting me.

Year 12
VET students have completed their Half Yearly Exams and are now finishing up the last few competencies required for them to hopefully achieve their Certificate II. The HSC exam for all VET subjects is optional; however, all VET students must sit the Trial exam and then opt out of the HSC exam by completing the appropriate paperwork that will be available from me after the Trial exam period.

Work Placement

Any student who has not completed the mandatory 70 hours of Work Placement must see me immediately.

Mrs J Simpson
Head Teacher VET
News from Mathematics Faculty….

We want your textbooks!
Recently many students have brought in a textbook that they last used in 2011 (or prior). If you also have a previously used textbook at home we would love to see it come back, no questions asked.

Mathletics is being provided at no charge to ALL students from Years 7 – 12. We are very grateful to the P&C for their contribution. All students have been provided with their username and password and can access the program on any computer, PC, Mac or iPad. Your child’s teacher has set them at a level appropriate to their current ability and levels can be changed during the year. Whilst your teacher will periodically set compulsory tasks to be completed, more often the program is intended to be used as a revision tool. As such, please encourage your child to aim for their certificate, 1000 points worth of work, each week.

Would you like more online revision?
Maths Online is an online program which has an audio and video component that explains concepts to students; it also has a worksheet component. It is usually $200 for individuals, but if there are 50+ students at the school who would like to access it the cost reduces to just $20. This would need to be paid by the student to the office, but before we arrange for this we need to know if students are interested – you can register for a free trial. Please ask your child, if they are interested, to see their Maths teacher by the end of Week 1, Term 2.

Australian Mathematics Competition
The Australian Mathematics Competition is run by the Australian Mathematics Trust. It is the original and largest competition in Australian schools and students are encouraged to enter the competition. The competition will be held in the school hall on Thursday 1 August 2013. A flyer with more information is available from your child’s Maths teacher. Entry into the competition is $6.00 per student. This needs to be paid at the front office by Friday 3 May (end of week 1, Term 2). Note that the office will not be accepting payments on the last three days of Term 1 (10, 11 and 12 April).

HSC solution books and study days
We will soon be ordering the MANSW solution books for each HSC Maths course. These contain the previous 10 years’ worth of HSC exams and thoroughly worked solutions. At $22 they are a bargain and an excellent revision tool. Year 12 teachers shall be taking orders early in Term 2. HSC study days are offered by universities and local libraries. Watch for posters around the school and listen for notification from your Maths teacher.

Attention Years 7 and 9! NAPLAN is coming….
The results of these tests provide important information about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. As parents you will receive a report indicating your child’s level of achievement, and each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Additional information can be found at http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html.

Your child will have received a very detailed letter at roll call. In summary, the tests are held in Week 3 of Term 2:

Tuesday 14 May: Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) Writing
Wednesday 15 May: Reading
Thursday 16 May: Numeracy (non-calculator) Numeracy (calculator allowed). Both exams including Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Measurement, Chance and Data, and Space

Friday 17 May will be used as a catch up day if a student misses any of the exams.

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics
What a Busy Term 1...
...we've had in TAS Home Economics! All our students have been hard at work over the term designing and producing wonderful, creative design projects. Our Senior students have been busy working on their Major Design Projects, Independent Research Projects and running our successful Café 2234.

Farewell Mrs Linda Wickens
This term is a sad one for the Home Economics staff as we farewell our long serving Food Technology Assistant, Mrs Linda Wickens. Mrs Wickens has been a part of our faculty for the past 17 years. She has been a wonderful member of staff who has contributed so much to our Blakehurst Community and not just in our faculty. She has been instrumental in assisting us over the years in P & C Dinners, Café 2234, Staff Development day morning teas, Year 12 Graduation Morning Teas and Presentation Night suppers. She has run the staff book club, laminated senior cards, organised coffee, tea, sugar and milk for staff morning teas as well as running an efficient and productive Food/Textiles Preparation area. She has provided each one of us in Home Economics with her unwavering support, encouragement and friendship over the years. I know I speak on behalf of all our Blakehurst Community when I say that we will miss her immensely. I want to wish Mrs Wickens all the very best for the future and thank her for all she has done for the staff and students at Blakehurst High School.

TEA Art Quilt Challenge
Congratulations to Rebecca Gray-Schwartz and Kristy Lee for their success in the Technology Educators Association Art Quilt Challenge 2012. Each year this challenge is open to Stage 5 Textiles students from public and private schools across NSW. Rebecca’s quilt was awarded 3rd place and Kristy’s quilt was awarded a Highly Commended. This achievement is outstanding as both girls were in Year 9 at the time of the challenge, with most entries being done by students in Year 10. The quilts are now part of the Texstyle exhibition which is travelling around NSW to various Quilt and Craft shows. They were on display at Rosehill racecourse in March and will be at Darling Harbour in June. Congratulations girls – we are very proud of you!

Year 11 Hospitality Barista Basics excursion
On Thursday 4th April 2013, the Year 11 Hospitality class went into town to attend a 5 Hour Barista course at CDB College, Barista Basics Coffee Academy. The students are currently in the process of achieving Certificate 2 in Hospitality and this course goes toward their accreditation in achieving the Units of ‘Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee’ and ‘Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures.’ The students, dressed in their brand new Hospitality, Food and Beverage Uniforms, looking smart and very professional, worked extremely hard all day producing silky textured milk and coffee to the highest standard. The assessor, Mr John Wilson from the Academy praised them for their professionalism and enthusiasm. The students were a credit to Blakehurst high School! Well done Year 11 Hospitality.

At the end of an intense and highly Caffeinated day, the students were all presented with a Certificate of Competency in both the assessed units. So watch out for these guys at your local School Café in near future!

I want to wish everyone a safe and relaxed two week break. We’ll see you refreshed and recharged for a busy Term 2.

Mrs Natalia Dexter
Head Teacher TAS Home Economics
The Enviro Team is geared up for another busy year. Emma Schofield (Year 11) has taken over the role of President and Rebecca Gray-Schwarz (Year 10) is supporting as Vice-President. We have a dedicated team from Years 7 to 11 and always encourage more students to join.

**Clean Up Australia Week**

At the beginning of March, the Enviro Team organised **Clean Up Australia Week** where Years 7-10 tidied the school playground in order to protect our environment. This is the third consecutive year Blakehurst High School has participated in this national event to raise awareness of the need for students to put their litter in the bin. Special mention needs to be made of Adam Kanaan in Year 7 who cleaned the playground with great enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, litter does continue to be a problem at Blakehurst High School. 10HG3 Geography class did a litter audit in the quadrangle, basketball court and West Street and found more than 50 pieces of plastic on the ground after one recess break. Parents can support the reduction of litter by encouraging their children to pack low waste recesses and lunches. This means bringing NUDE FOOD where food is packaged in reusable containers rather than plastic bags and cling wrap.

**Earth Day**

On Thursday 28th March the Enviro Team promoted **Earth Day** (inspired by the global Earth Hour event). The Team did a light audit using digital meters. These measured the luminosity of light (lux) in classrooms to determine whether there was adequate natural lighting for learning or whether the artificial lights needed to be turned on. They put a poster of the lux reading on each classroom door so that classes would know whether or not the lights were required. This meant that many lights could be switched OFF to save energy and reduce classroom temperature.
Mobile Muster

The next major project in Term 2 for the Enviro Team is Mobile Muster. This involves collecting old mobile phones and accessories so that they can be recycled. Mobile phones contain hazardous materials so they must not just be thrown away into landfill. Instead the components of mobile phones should be separated and reused which puts less pressure on the environment.

Over the holidays, look through your drawers at home, remove any old mobile phones you are keeping for no purpose and send them along to school next term to be recycled.

Ms J Camilleri
Environmental Team Co–ordinator
The Balmoral Burn is a fun and positive way for students, teachers, parents and community members to get involved with a great Charity, The Humpty Dumpty Foundation, and provide them with the chance to give to a good cause. Last year, I was overwhelmed by the initial response and support provided by the school, students and parents who helped raise $1200 for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation. Last year we had 1 Male team enter the Senior Boys “HEAD OF THE HILL” relay; the first ever Public School Team, what an achievement!

The students we have so far for the 2013 installment of the Balmoral Burn 2013 are:

Team 1
- Tayla Gardiner, Mai Soliman
- Nina Glavincevski Julia Glavincevski

Team 2
- Ibrahim Saleh Mark Tzavellas
- Hayden Lowe Jake Burgess

Team 3
- Max Poulter Gurnoor Singh
- Oliver Willmette Joshua Powell

Team 4
- Jeremiah Muriwal Jason Galan
- Patrick Horvat Cj Nhem

Team 5
- Karim Dahab Jurmaine Mayman
- Moustafa Malhas Logan Murphy

Team 6
- Chadwick Aryana Mika Zammit
- Daniel Towe Robert Liley

- Other students -
- David Hughes Dylan McCuaig-Walton Alex Mouzakis

Support the cause and donate at: https://balmoralburn2013.everydayhero.com/au/BHS2013

James Roff
Science Department
Premier’s Student Volunteering Awards

On the Thursday 13 December 2012, five Blakehurst students were accompanied by Ms Maricic and Ms Pappas to the St George Rowing Club. These students attended a ceremony to recognise their contribution to the community by having completed over 150 hours of Volunteering within their local area. More than 6000 students participate in the NSW Premier’s Student Volunteering Awards program each year with many students receiving awards.

In Sydney Region, students have contributed over 30,000 hours of Volunteering. Blakehurst was proudly represented by the following students: Mario Andreone, Chadwick Arayana, Jessie Fu, Kyle Stein, Cecilia Wong. Students were presented with a Black Opal Certificate by Sydney Regional Director, Dr. Phil Lambert, with proud parents and teachers attending the ceremony.

Year 9 Commerce Nursing Home Visit

In Term 4 2012, Year 9 Commerce students studied the topic of ‘Community Participation’ and learnt about organisations and community services on a Global, National and Local level. We learnt about famous people who lead by making decisions which made a difference to the lives of people and animals. We also had the opportunity to research the many Non-Profit Organisations that we might Volunteer at, now and in the future.

Our unit of work culminated in a Christmas visit to our local Nursing Home in Cheddar Street, Blakehurst. We sang Christmas carols, played board games, gave out hand-made Christmas cards and 1960’s WordFind booklets that we put together for the residents. Donations from the students of both classes went towards small presents for residents with no family close by as well as a Christmas Carol CD by Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby for all. There was lots of cheer and joy around.

The visit to the local nursing home is a great example of community organisations and services doing their bit to help, but most importantly a great learning experience for us.

Ms O Pappas & Ms M Marichc
Volunteering Co-ordinators
News from the LIBRARY

Make sure you come and up and borrow something to read for the holidays. We are having our usual special for holiday borrowing – you may borrow 4 fiction books over the holidays.

We have just purchased many Sequels to popular series including:

- The latest instalment in the Gone series *“Light”*
- *“Scorched Earth”* in the Henderson Boys series
- *“Unravel Me”* from the Juliette Chronicles
- *“Perfect Scoundrels”* in the Heist series.

We also have the new series by Philip Gwynne *“The Debt”* and many more new books for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Come up and let me help you find the best books for your holiday reading.

Book Café students enjoyed a special “Blind date with a book” lunch on Valentine's Day.

The Premier’s reading Challenge

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are once again involved in reading for the Challenge. Students should aim to have read 5 books by the end of the holidays (at least).

Congratulations to the following Year 7 students who have already read 20 books to complete the Challenge for 2014: S Singh, R Watson and S Wong. Well done! Watch out for your invitation to a special Premier’s Reading Challenge readers’ event.

Our new e-Library

Join our new e-Library by going to the Library page on Moodle and registering to borrow. (You need your Library card number and school email address).
Cram For The HSC Sessions

Our popular subject drop in sessions are back!
These sessions are designed to cater for different levels and to tackle specific areas that link to HSC syllabus. Each session is led by an HSC expert who will provide you with guidance on tricky topics.

Book Now!

Dates and subjects:
Thursday 2 May 2013 | English for English ESL, English Standard, English Advanced and English Ext 1
Thursday 9 May 2013 | Maths for General Maths, Mathematics, Maths Ext 1
Thursday 16 May | Science for Chemistry, Physics and Biology

Where | Hurstville Library, Exhibition Area
Cost | $5 per session
Time | 6pm – 8pm

To book and for more details: go to the Service Desk, Hurstville Library or phone 9330 6111

Hurstville City Council

Mrs A Alchin
Teacher/Librarian
**CAPA ‘Column’**

**Congratulations to the CAPA teachers and all of our students on an excellent start to 2013.**

Term 1 is at an end, classes are settled and our Instrumental Groups are working towards some exciting performances later this year.

**Music Night 2013...**

will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2013 in the BHS Hall. Expressions of Interest have been called for and so far we have had a terrific response from our many talented students at school. Auditions will be held during Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 2 in time for final preparations in Weeks 3 and 4. **SAVE THE DATE!! 22 May 2013.** Be sure you get your family and friends together for Blakehurst’s Night of Nights, Music Night 2013 and celebrate the wonderful musical talent we have here at our school.

**Concert Band...**

...has been rehearsing every Monday afternoon after school, but we are still looking for more players, (especially brass instrumentalists!). I know there are students in our school community who have experience playing in a band – so come on!! Join us! Don’t be shy – just come along and play!! All players are welcome.

**String Groups - Beginner Strings**

Beginner String lessons are held each Monday at lunch. If you are interested please see Ms Jacobsen in the CAPA staffroom.

**String Ensemble**

The senior group has begun learning their new repertoire for 2013. All experienced string players are still most welcome to join us. Rehearsals are held each Thursday afternoon after school in Music Room 1.

**Choir**

The Choir attended the first rehearsal for the ‘In Concert 2013’ performance, which will be held in Term 2. The second rehearsal is on 7 May, followed by the final rehearsal and the performance on Monday 13 May at the **Sydney Town Hall.**

The Choir has also been selected to join the massed regional choir for the **Expanding Horizons Gala Concert, which will be held in the Opera House** on August 19, 2013. The first combined rehearsal will be on Thursday 9 May at Burwood Girls High School. We still have a few places available – so if you are interested in being part of these fantastic concert performances see Ms Jacobsen in the CAPA staffroom.

Choir rehearsals are now held on Fridays before school – 8.00am – in Music Room 1. A very big ‘thank you’ to Ms Huang (HSIE) who comes along to our rehearsals and helps us with our repertoire.

**Guitar Lessons**

Guitar lessons have continued each Thursday. We still have a few times available for any students who would like to start lessons in Term 2.

**Drama**

The Blakehurst High School Drama Club has officially started and we already have an enthusiastic group of budding actors onboard! Are YOU a theatrical student from Years 7, 8 or 9 who wishes to unleash your inner actor?

We meet in the Drama Room, every Thursday at lunchtime, so why not come along to learn the art of theatre, masquerade with some masks or be inspired by our exceptional HSC Drama students as they perform for you! See you there!

**Have a Safe and Restful Holiday Break!**

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**Mrs J Jacobsen**

**Head Teacher & CAPA Team**
LOTE Report
This has been an extremely busy term with Year 12 Language students doing their half yearly exams. This Term in LOTE we had Japanese Visitors, Gelato Day for our Italian Classes, Poisson D’Avril and we celebrated Easter.

Oita Tomei Visit
On the 4th of March, 19 enthusiastic students arrived from Japan with their English teacher and the Deputy Principal to spend a week with our students. Blakehurst High Students hosted our visitors while Year 10 Japanese and French students were their buddies during their time at school.

During their stay, the Japanese students had ESL lessons. They were integrated in class with their Year 10 buddies; they went to Sport on Wednesday afternoon and participated in all school activities. They also visited Kurnell for a guided tour of the area; caught a ferry to Manly allowing them to experience our wonderful harbour and they also visited Symbio Wildlife Park where they acquainted themselves with our Koalas and Kangaroos. The Japanese teachers organised a cultural exchange activity, teaching our Year 7 Japanese class how to play traditional Japanese Games and do Calligraphy.

On Monday afternoon, March 11, they entertained our buddies and host brothers and sisters with a concert in the hall where they not only performed in Japanese but also sang Waltzing Matilda in English, thus displaying their linguistic skills. Our own Naomi To did us proud by giving a farewell speech in Japanese also demonstrating her linguistic skills. The visit ended with a party and lots of photos were taken to cherish this very successful exchange.

I must take this opportunity to thank all the host families, buddies and staff here at Blakehurst High School for their support during these invaluable cultural visits, as without this extended support these visits could not take place.
Seeing the Sites at Kurnell

Getting to Know the 'Locals' at Symbio Wildlife Park

Receiving Certificates of Participation from Principal, Mr Brad Lester
LOTE Moves with 21st Century Teaching Practices

Beginning in Term 2, the Year 11 students studying Japanese will have an exciting opportunity to practice their speaking skills and be able to share cultural information with students in Japan as part of the Asia ConneXions program through the University of New England.

Ms Winston and Mrs Smith have already had a Video Conference with teachers from Chitose High School in Japan to organise the classes for the rest of this year. We look forward to the students having real world opportunities to communicate with native speakers!
**Gelato Day**

To celebrate Easter and to raise funds for their French trip, the Year 10 French students organised a Gelato Day for the junior Italian classes. A great time was had by all as well as developing some useful speaking skills. It is always very important to know how to purchase a Gelato when in Italy!!!!

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**April Fools Day – Poisson D’Avril**

On April 1st Year 8 French Class learnt how French students celebrated April Fools Day. They learnt that they made a fish and attached it on the back of some unsuspecting friend and then waited to see how long the fish went unnoticed. They all made a fish and I wonder how many innocent Blakehurst students were caught out. (Displayed below are some of their creations).

All French classes learnt about Easter and made Easter Cards but Year 8Z French were very lucky as they also celebrated with chocolate crepes.

How lucky our language students are to have such dedicated teachers who are constantly making the Language lessons more realistic for them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the LOTE Staffroom for their hard work this term, to wish them a relaxing break so they all come back reinvigorated for another exciting term in languages.

I would also like to wish Ms Winston all the very best in her relieving position as coordinator for the Tunken Centre at Kirrawee for Term 2 and welcome Ms Lao who will replace Ms Winston in Term 2. Currently they share the position so our students are not being disadvantaged by this wonderful professional development opportunity Ms Winston has been offered.
Poisson D'Avril

YEAR 8 FRENCH
POISSON D'AVRIL
LE 1er AVRIL

POISSON D'AVRIL
1 AVRIL
On Friday 15th of March the Junior Prefects organised Funky Hair Day. The purpose of the day was to raise money as part of the World’s Greatest Shave for the Leukaemia Foundation. The Junior Prefects made posters, collected money and sprayed/chalked hair. A big thank you to those who brought money and had their hair sprayed or chalked to support a worthy cause.

Mrs Gerrey volunteered to shave her hair shaved by Connie Tzavellas from Year 12 in front of a large crowd during lunch time. Luke Auciello from Year 10 had already shaved his long hair and fundraised $1,700; a very impressive effort. Nicola Calder-Little a Year 9 Junior Prefect dyed her hair pink and raised $600. Overall, it was a very successful day. Thank you to all for a wonderful effort!

.....Natalie Wong

Teachers Supporting the Cause

Nicola and her Coloured Hair

Mrs A Mangraviti
Head Teacher LOTE
On Thursday 28th March... 
...Ben Hornby, Dean Young and Bronx Goodwin from the St George Illawarra RLFC came to Blakehurst High to deliver a presentation about Bullying, Respect and Responsibility.

The players spoke about their own experiences regarding bullying and what respect and responsibility meant in their team environment. I am sure the students gained a valuable insight into how bad bullying can be from a perspective of an elite sportsman. The values of Respect and Responsibility that exists at St George Illawarra are very closely aligned to the values that underpin Blakehurst High School.

Congratulations... 
...to David Hughes, Michael Amey (Year 10), Jamel Diab, Nathan King, Kyle Stein (Year 11) and Jordan Wilson, Muhammad Faour (Year 12), who have completed their Rugby League Coaching Certification and who are refereeing Primary School Knock-Out carnivals and PSSA Rugby League on Friday mornings.

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams 
The PDHPE team would like to wish all Year 12 students the best of luck in their Half Yearly examinations. It is most important that all students are working hard on revision in preparation for these exams and more importantly putting emphasis on revision and study for the HSC at the end of the year.

Year 11 2 unit PDHPE students... 
... are now settled into the senior school and progressing well. There are high expectations for Year 11 in 2013. These students are now participating in their Outdoor Recreation Camp which is from Wednesday 10th April to Friday 12th April on the South Coast. Students will participate in challenging activities such as canoeing and they will be responsible for their own food and tents whilst on camp.

Year 11 
The Year 11 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation and Certificate II in Sports Coaching classes are also working well and progressing through their respective courses. A number of students have completed their Level 1 Rugby League Coaching Certification and have assisted at Primary School carnivals. Sports Coaching students need to be aware that they have to complete their 35 hour COMPULSORY WORK PLACEMENT by the end of Term 3.

Year 7 to 10 Physical Education classes... 
...have now completed their Fitness testing and Gymnastics units with some outstanding performances from students in all classes. The battery of fitness tests gives each student a comprehensive overview of their fitness including Aerobic Fitness, Strength, Power and Flexibility. Some of the BEEP test results were outstanding with students reaching very high stage levels. These tests will be done again later in the year with students then being able to improve and compare their fitness progress over the year.

The Gymnastics unit involves students learning various exercises on the floor and balance beam and then combining these individual exercises into routines which are assessed using a specific marking criteria.

The floor exercises include: Forward Rolls, Straddle Rolls, Headstands, Cartwheels, Backward Rolls to Pike, and Handstands. Balance beam exercises include: Candlesticks, Arabesques, Coupe walks, Tip Toe walks and Straight Stretch Jump dismounts.

Students are enjoying the opportunity to participate in different activities and are having a very exciting time trying to master some of these exercises, with everyone achieving to the best of their ability. Safety is also a prime consideration with all students being taught the safety aspects and requirements of each activity.

Year 7 to 10 Personal Development and Health classes... 
...are in the process of completing their first units of theory work including:

Year 7 - New Environments, New Challenges 
Year 8 - Growing and Changing 
Year 9 - Creating Respectful Relationships 
Year 10 - Risks, Choices and Taking Action

Yours in Sport 
Mr T Yelavich 
Head Teacher & PDHPE Team
PDHPE Sports – Report

Summer Grade Sport…
...has been held at various venues around the St George Zone. There haven’t been any cancellations for Grade Summer Sport in Term 1 and subsequently, Blakehurst High has had some very promising results over the opening six rounds of interschool competition.

Winter Sport Selections…
...have begun, and with it brings a variety of sports for students to choose. The expected start date for Winter Grade Sport competition is Wednesday 8th May 2013. We are looking to field a record number of Grade teams across all age groups, with 61 Grade teams competing with an even split of 32 boys teams and 29 girls teams.

Winter Grade Sports on offer include Rugby League, Soccer, Hockey, Table Tennis, Boys Tennis, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Netball. We wish these students the best of luck through the Trials and throughout the Winter competition.

St George Zone Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to the following students who are the Zone Swimming Age Champions for 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Years</td>
<td>Sheridan Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td>Julia Glavincevski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+ Years</td>
<td>Danil Goloubev</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Sydney East Swimming Carnival…
...was held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Monday 11th March, where Blakehurst High had a team of 25 students representing St George Zone. All students did themselves proud and congratulations to the following swimmers who qualified for the NSW Combined High Schools Swimming Championships.

- Max Poulter
- Sheridan Smith
- Julia Glavincevski
- Nada Soliman
- Martha Spiotti
- Chadwick Aryana
- Danil Goloubev

Congratulations to Max Poulter (Year 7) who has won a Bronze Medal in the U/13 Swim Teams at the recent NSW Junior Surf Life Saving Championships held at Umina Beach. Max is a fantastic sporting talent and we wish Max the best in Surf Life Saving competitions and in all events while representing the school. Well done!

Rugby 7s
Congratulations to Brooke Anderson (Year 12) who has been selected to represent Australia on the International stage in Rugby 7s tournaments. Brooke has just returned from a trip to Hong Kong and looks set to travel to London and Russia later in the year for more competition in the hope of making the Australian Women’s Rugby 7s World Cup Squad. At only 17 years of age, Brooke is an amazing talent and an exceptional athlete who is the youngest in the Open Squad. Congratulations and good luck!

Triathlon
Congratulations to Julia Glavincevski who recently came 5th in the NSW All Schools U/16 Triathlon Championships held at Penrith. This is now the second year in a row Julia has qualified for the Australian Junior Triathlon Championships to be held in Penrith. We wish Julia the best of luck.

Sporting results outside school - Netball
Congratulations to Stephen Ribaroski (Year 9) who has been selected to represent NSW at the Australian Netball Championships in Melbourne. We wish Stephen the best of luck and congratulate him on his sporting achievements in representing NSW. Well done!

Upcoming events
NSW All Schools Swimming – Monday 6th May
Winter Grade Sport – Wednesday 8th May
School Cross Country – Monday 13th May
Zone Cross Country – Tuesday 21st May
School Athletics – Tuesday 4th June

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


Open Girls Basketball
The defeat of Marrickville High showcased the girls promise to cut it in the Final 8 Sydney East competition. The teamwork, shot selections, defense and passes helped the girls to beat Marrickville 48 – 31. Shannon was the top scorer, with Daisy topping the assists.

The Sydney East Final 8 was held the day after our defeat of Marrickville, at Sutherland Basketball Stadium. In our first game we faced Endeavour Sports High and definitely held our own, only losing by 11 points. At least one referee enjoyed the game on the adjacent court.

In game two, the girls played Menai High School, and it came down to the wire. We were leading the whole game and only lost in the last few minutes, 38 – 33. The girls played exceptionally well and were unfortunate to be playing a game where the score can change quickly!

In our final game we faced a very strong and tall team in Port Hacking. Their post play and post shots were the winning factor for Port Hacking, but we certainly held our own. In the end we lost this game, 42 – 30.

The team consisted of Brooke Anderson, Taleah Bryant, Alishia Lambropolous, Shannon Suryawan, Jennifer Jusmin, Marija Simonovska, Jesse Harris, Daisy Kennedy-Holtz, Tamika Kosasih and Bianca Martin. Well done girls!

Regards

Mr N Smith
Sports Organiser

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GREEK DANCE CLASSES
Hurstville-Bexley

@ Sydney Technical High School
686 Forest Rd, Bexley / Hurstville
FRIDAYS
5pm for 4-7yrs
6pm for 7-11yrs
7pm open to all teenagers
Must register 26 max per class

Call NOW: 0413 114 930
www.schoolofgreekdance.com.au
FREE TRIAL
SOPHIA VENTOURIS SCHOOL OF GREEK DANCE
NEW ENROLMENTS WELCOME
FREE! Parenting Teenagers Support group

Are you a parent, step-parent, grandparent or other carer of a teenager aged 12-18?
Meet others in a similar situation and talk about -
✓ What teenagers might be going through
✓ Teenagers and risk taking behaviour eg. alcohol/other drugs, anti-social behaviours (Limited spaces!)
✓ Parenting strategies
✓ Respect, setting boundaries and limits
✓ Communication, anger and dealing with conflict
✓ Self care ..... and more with a qualified psychologist

Group meetings to be at: Level 3, Corner Moate Ave. & Princess St. Brighton-le-Sands

Starting
1st May
2013
10.30am-
12noon

Duration:
6 weeks on Wednesdays

For bookings phone
Paul
9556 1769 or email
project@stgeorgeyouth.org

REGISTRATION FOR
PARENTING TEENAGERS SUPPORT GROUP

First name: ____________________________________________________________

Family name: __________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Home phone: ___________ Mobile: ______________

Age of children in the family: ________________________________________________________________

Send this form to:
St George Youth Services-Reconnect Youth and Family Service
PO Box 659 Rockdale 2216 OR By Fax. 95562679 OR Email details to project@stgeorgeyouth.org OR register direct by phone
Dyslexia Support Group

Do you have a child with Dyslexia?

Do you want to meet other families who are in a similar situation?

The Dyslexia Support Group for the Sutherland Shire and St George area is a forum where parents can talk, exchange ideas, information, resources and experiences with other parents. This support group keeps in contact via email, phone and meeting over coffee on the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am at a café in Sutherland.

If you are interested as a parent or as professional in attending the meetings or going on the email list please call Paula Goulden on 9528 4638 or email psgoulden@tpg.com.au
IS YOUR CHILD SAFE? UNDERSTANDING BULLYING

Bullying in Australian schools is a huge concern for teachers, parents and students. While schools are promoted as a safe place for children and anti-bullying policies are in place, there is a gap in linking parents and school professionals to work together in understanding and providing early intervention.

This workshop will assist parents in identifying bullying, the different forms of bullying and what proactive strategies can be implemented.

Without appropriate support and intervention, bullying can have lifelong negative consequences for the child and their family.

Date: Wednesday 29 May, 2013
Time: 6.00pm-9.00pm
Venue: Learning Links Penshurst
        10 Railway Parade, Penshurst NSW 2222
Cost: FREE*
Suitable for: Parents and Carers ONLY

For enquiries and bookings please phone Dana on 8568 8200

* This workshop is funded by the Department of Education and Communities.
THE MULTICULTURAL YOUTH NETWORK
AND HURSTVILLE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT

YOUTH
NETWORKING
EVENING 2013

PARTICIPATE & CONTRIBUTE:
CONNECTING TO YOUR NETWORK

DATE
TIME
VENUE

Monday, 15 April 2013
6.30pm to 9.30pm
Hurstville Civic Theatre
24 MacMahon Street, Hurstville

To reserve your place, RSVP by 10 April 2013 to:
Thida Yang
Phone: 8255 6799.
Email: thida.yang@crc.nsw.gov.au

Dress: Smart Casual
Refreshments will be provided.

A Youth Week 2013 event

Hurstville City Council
NSW
Community Relations Commission
Multicultural Youth Network