From the Principal

Term 4 Report
The end of the year is rapidly approaching. This time of the year is very busy as we finalise assessments for all years, as well as begin planning for the 2014 school year. This planning includes the timetabling of classes as well as allocation of teaching staff to these classes, budgeting, programming etc.

Students in all years must attend school until Wednesday the 18th of December. Activities are being organised for all Years. Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will attend normal classes up until the last three days, at which time they will be allocated an Activity to attend, undertake Peer Support training or fulfill HSC requirements (where Yr 11 is concerned).

P&C Funded Projects Continue
1. Study Skills Online
The P&C has again funded the online study skills program for 2013/14. This valuable resource can be accessed by all students and parents at school and at home. The program has a huge amount of information for students and parents, as well as lots of interactive activities, multimedia experiences and useful resources. To access the handbook, go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) (the link is also found on the Blakehurst High School’s web site) and login as a subscriber with these details:

User name: blakehursths
Password: 186results

The topics currently covered by the handbook are:

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<th>at home</th>
<th>specific skills</th>
<th>extra ‘general’ mini-units</th>
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<td>2. Organisation and Filing</td>
<td>2. Writing Skills</td>
<td>2. Becoming a Senior Student</td>
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<td>5. Dealing with Distractions</td>
<td>5. Research Skills</td>
<td>5. Your Brain and Memory</td>
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<td>7. Developing Motivation</td>
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<td>+ Educational Kinesiology</td>
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<td>8. Goal Setting</td>
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<td>+ Living Across 2 Houses</td>
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<td>9. Lifestyle and Balance</td>
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<td>+ Travel: A Motivator to Learn</td>
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<td>10. Managing Stress</td>
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<td>+ Uni: Lecture Note-Making</td>
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<th>tests and exams</th>
<th>extra ‘technology’ mini-units</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Summarising</td>
<td>1. Technology Tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Active Studying</td>
<td>2. Basic Computer Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Preparing for Exam Blocks</td>
<td>3. Be CyberSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Test-Taking Techniques</td>
<td>+ Useful Apps for iPads</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. After Tests &amp; Exams</td>
<td>+ Microsoft OneNote</td>
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In addition to the huge amount of content, the systematic program for students to work through includes: online quizzes, summary sheets, worksheets, lots of FAQs answered, articles and links, online polls, facility to submit questions, helpful grids and planners, jokes and quotes, student thoughts, images and photos, students can submit ideas to win, competitions, audio and video files, streaming audio (to allow students the option to read or listen to the content) And: new content added regularly, new units added each year, new features added regularly. There is also a tracking system where students save the results of their end of unit quizzes and modules over the years.
STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR NOVEMBER – Perfectionism

Expectations on students can create a very competitive environment. Students are inundated with information about the significance of academic performance, and the result, in many cases, is that some students develop unhealthy propensities for perfectionism.

Perfectionism may not sound like much of a problem in an academic atmosphere - after all, teachers and parents want students to develop strong work ethics and sound study habits. The problem is, true perfectionism actually tends to lead students away from these healthy developments. When a student becomes upset over a score of 98 out of 100, or can't handle coming in 2nd out of a class of 30, or spend hours on something that should take 10 minutes…..then study and stress levels will often suffer as a result.

Perfectionism to this degree usually results from a fear of failure, rejection or disapproval, or insecurity about meeting a given standard. Students feeling these pressures quickly fall into inefficient work patterns, focusing on proving themselves, rather than on doing individual assignments effectively. So - how can such patterns and thought processes be avoided? Here are a few suggestions for coping with perfectionism.

1. Separate Work from Personal Feelings
   This is a huge hurdle for many students. The fact is, an evaluation of your work often feels like an evaluation of you personally, and the pressure of making that evaluation positive can lead to perfectionism. Students must learn to treat work evaluation as feedback for their learning, not as a personal reflection on themselves.

2. Set Incremental Goals
   Many students tend to set unattainable or at least extremely difficult goals. Instead, students should focus on setting goals based on past achievements and efforts. If a student gets an 85 on an exam, the goal for the next one should not be 100 - it should be an 87. If they study for only twenty minutes for a test, next time aim for thirty. Incremental goals are more reasonable, and most long-term improvement occurs gradually.

3. Recognise Stress
   This can be easier said than done, but it's crucial in battling perfectionism. Students need to be aware of the fact when they're stressing over a project (spending extra unnecessary hours, re-writing pages exhaustively, etc.). Learning to recognize stress can help students to re-evaluate work methods and stop and think how much effort is appropriate for that task.

4. Explore Efficient Work Methods
   Often, newer or easier work methods can assist in efficiency. Students shouldn't get lazy, but should allow certain technologies to make work easier. That might mean downloading Evernote for easy electronic note-taking, or it may mean investing Sharefile as a means of cloud storage and computer organization - whatever the case, perfectionists can often find their workloads lessened by these steps.

4. Put Things in Perspective
   It's incredibly important for students to have proper perspective on schoolwork. Being able to stop and think about the worst case scenario can help students to realise that an individual assignment - while important - should not be a source of unnecessary stress or excessive workload. Ultimately, dealing with perfectionism can be a long and tricky process. But implementing these habits and thought processes can help students to develop a healthier approach to their schoolwork. You can learn more in the Managing Workload and Overcoming Obstacles units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

SMS Absence Notification System

The P&C has continued to fund the school’s SMS system throughout 2013 and again next year. Just as a reminder, the program reads the schools attendance rolls at a predetermined time each day (around 11am) and then automatically sends an email to the parent/caregiver of any absent or late student. (NB: unless otherwise altered, the system will default to the mother’s mobile number) Parents can then reply by SMS, to explain the student’s absence/lateness. This will negate the need for an explanation letter. Of course, parents are still able to write letters, emails or phone the school, to notify us of the reasons for the student’s absence, if they wish to do so.

Parents can also use SMS to inform the school prior to the student’s absence. The number for this is 19910010. The SMS notification system can also be used to inform you of upcoming events eg. Parent and Teacher evenings, P&C meetings and sporting carnivals.
Thank you to the P&C for their ongoing financial support of these whole school programs. It just goes to show that the P&C Student Enhancement fee paid by parents enables improvements in resources and facilities for the education of your students.

**The HSC**

As I write this newsletter the HSC exams are drawing to an end. Feedback from students about the exams has generally been positive, although it was not unusual to get a “it was really easy” or “it was really hard” response when asking two students about the same exam! The HSC results are available to students on the 18th of December (ATARs are usually the next day).

**Presentation Night**

Please put the 2013 Presentation night date (Wednesday the 11th of December) into your diaries. The night will begin promptly at 7-00pm (please arrive early to be seated) in the school hall and it should last for two hours.

**International Student of the Year**

One of our Year 12 students, **Wendy Yang** was named joint recipient of the NSW International Student of the Year Award at a function at the Sydney Opera House in October. Well done Wendy!! She is a deserved winner.

Wendy was in fact the first Government School student to win this coveted award. Congratulations and thanks also need to go Ms Chen and Mrs Paton who put Wendy forward as an applicant and wrote her citation/application. Students cannot be successful in these awards without a lot of hard work and effort by staff. Thanks also to Mr Baker and Mr Ovens who were involved in the production of a video about Wendy that was shown at the awards.

**DER Changes from 2014 Onwards**

As you are probably aware, for the past few years, Year 9 students have been issued with laptops paid for by the Commonwealth Government’s DER (Digital Education Revolution) funding. This funding ceased in 2013. Therefore, there will be **no new laptops distributed in 2014 and beyond.** All schools are now investigating ways to allow students access to the schools wireless internet. This includes BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). I have been asked by our Technology Committee to inform parents that we are still investigating the best way forward in this area. **As a result it would be best for families to hold off on purchasing any new technology for students to bring to school until we can advise of the specifications that would be required to make it suitable for use at school as well as home.**

**LMBR Changes**

As I write this Newsletter we are in the midst of a major change to the software that NSW Public schools use for administration, Finance, timetabling and Student Management. The changes are part of the LMBR (Learning Management and Business Reform) program. This program marks the most significant change in school administration in the last 30 years.

As BHS is in the Commonwealth Empowering Local Schools National Partnership (ELSNP) we are one of the 229 pilot schools for LMBR (NB- there are 2238 public schools in NSW). As a pilot school we have had access to in depth training for LMBR and we are able to suggest ways to help streamline the processes. The ‘go live’ date is set for November 18. As we will be swapping over all our software on or around this date there may be disruption to some of our normal processes eg finance collection and SMS. I apologise in advance for this, hopefully we will get back to normal – at least from your viewpoint – as soon as possible.

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**Congratulations Wendy Yang**

International Student of the Year

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Mr B Lester
Principal
Respect and Responsibility

We speak to students about Respect and Responsibility regularly, both at assemblies, in small groups and individually. It underpins the values and ethics that we attempt to instil in all students as part of their wider education. Everything that staff, students and parents do should be governed by these principles, both at school and in the wider community.

Social Media and Electronic Devices.

All sections in our community are currently struggling with how to advise young (and sometimes not so young) people, on how to deal with the new problems created by new technologies. With younger students it is all about “stranger danger” but as they get older it tends to be much more personal. Young people who are still in the process of assessing risk and managing consequences, are particularly vulnerable to the risks of cyber threats.

There are two approaches, one for the perpetrators and one for the victims. The perpetrators need to understand the rules. Students must not engage in bullying, spamming, illegal behaviour, malicious blogging or similar antisocial behaviours. Students who engage in antisocial behaviours in a social networking or blogging site that have ramifications within the school community (such as bullying a fellow student,) will be subject to school regulations regarding such behaviour even though the infringements have occurred outside the school. Again, this comes back to respect for others and personal responsibility.

Parents and schools have a responsibility to build the resilience in young people to protect them from cyberbullying. Some suggestions include:

- Don’t give kids free access to electronic devices until they have learnt to use them responsibly. You wouldn’t let your child drive your car until you were sure they knew the road rules and understood how to apply them safely.

- Many students believe that they must respond to everything written about them. Often the best way is to not respond. If they respond in an overly negative way, they may also get into trouble.

- Discuss these issues with your child. What do they believe when they read bad comments about another student? Are the comments real just because they have been written?

- Just like personal contacts, children need to understand that if they want people to be nice to them, they also need to be nice. Often nastiness, in person or online, is the response to another event.

Although the technologies have changed and some of the outcomes are worse, the situations themselves are not really that different. We do, however, need to immunise children against the pain and hurt that can result from these situations.

Lyn Paton
Deputy Principal
Last term the Junior Prefects carried out a ‘Drawtism’ competition to raise funds for Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT). People with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) have difficulty interacting with others around them. If you’ve ever played Pictionary you might remember a time when no matter what you drew your team just couldn’t guess what you were trying to communicate. Playing a game of Pictionary gave students a little bit of perspective about Autism.

ASPECT provides a range of services, such as early intervention programs, a network of Autism Specific Schools, behavioral interventions and a parent support network. At the moment there is no known single cause for ASD and there is currently no known cure either.

However, early intervention and structured support can help develop an individual’s skills and make life much easier for them in future. As we have students with ASDs in our school community, the Junior Prefects decided this was a great cause to support. The Junior Prefects registered 26 teams of junior and senior students from Years 7 to 12, for a Knock-Out competition which raised $172 for ASPECT.

The winning team of the junior competition consisted of Joy Liu, Meggie Yao, Mandy Ruan and Caitlin Su. The winning team of the senior competition consisted of Andrew Tong, Mathew Fong, Shannon Suryawan and Jasmin Huang. All teams involved had fun and the Junior Prefects gained some great organizational skills running the event over the course of 2 weeks during Recess and Lunch intervals.

……April McLeod - Year 9

Mrs J Smith
Welfare Coordinator
Another great website
We are constantly on the hunt for interactive, free activities for our students. http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ is an old favourite – loads of resources in many subjects.

Australian Mathematics Competition
As mentioned last Newsletter we had some pretty impressive results, well done everyone. Our highest achievers were:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Distinction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Nguyen - Year 11</td>
<td>Aimee Chen - Year 12</td>
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<td>Mike Zou - Year 10</td>
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<td>Sunny Wu - Year 10</td>
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<td>Gordan Qian - Year 9</td>
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<td>Michelle Chen - Year 9</td>
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<td>Zi Ning Su - Year 8</td>
<td>Zalika Azam - Year 8</td>
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<td>Cassandra Tsang - Year 8</td>
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<td>Andito Amperman - Year 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Wu - Year 7</td>
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Mathletics App Upgrade
www.mathletics.com.au is used by all Mathematics teachers at Blakehurst High School. Often we set particular tasks, and when they are complete the student can access all areas of their Years’ curriculum, including the games and the very popular live Mathletics.

The school and P&C have provided access to Mathletics for all students at no charge in 2013 (usually $99 for home users). It’s a brilliant resource, so take advantage of it! If you would like your child’s username and password, please email to my attention at blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Mathletics isn’t limited to PC’s. Over 500,000 people have downloaded the Mathletics app for Apple, Android and Samsung devices. The apps have recently been updated with new features.

For all devices download the free app at http://www.3plearning.com/mathleticsappupdated.

End of Year Exams
Year 11 will be experiencing their first HSC Assessment Tasks in Weeks 9 and 10. Exact dates and details will be provided by the classroom teachers at least 2 weeks in advance. We remind all students that they must attend all lessons on those days, or have a doctor’s certificate for the time of their absence.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be having end of year Mathematics exams in Weeks 8 and 9. The results of these exams, in conjunction with the four term tests that they have completed, will assist in determining their class for 2014. Each test is one period in duration and held in their usual classroom. Dates and topics will be given to the students at least two weeks in advance.

 Roll Up Your Sleeves, Blakehurst!
Nice one Blakehurst High School! Over 30 students from Years 10, 11 and 12 donated blood in Term 3. It was fabulous to see so many Year 10 students giving their first donation, and so many keen to participate when they turn 16 years. We shall be donating again in mid/late Term 4.

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics
From the CAREERS Adviser...

New Upgrade to the Myfuture Website

Parents and Carers are a key influence on their children's life choices and career decisions. Therefore, it is important they have access to the tools and resources to help them undertake this role.

The new myfuture website (www.myfuture.edu.au), to be launched in November, will feature a dedicated section for parents called "Assist Your Child". Parents will have access to an extensive amount of information and resources to support their child's career journey.

Research for the National Career Development Strategy identified parents' need for more information about careers, study and work. In particular, parents requested more information on post-school education and training and greater access to information about career development and work. "Assist Your Child" will include information and activities that will help parents and carers to introduce the world of work to children aged from five years. Information on pathways for secondary-school-age children will also help parents and carers to discuss the education, training and employment pathways available to their child.

The new myfuture website will be launched late November.

In addition, parents already have access to a great deal of valuable information on our own Blakehurst High Careers website (www.blakehursthighcareers.com) and the new website that I subscribe to on the school's behalf called seek2b (www.seek2b.com). This new website requires a password which is easily found on the careers noticeboard, so why not ask your child to have a look for it or contact me on the school's phone number?

Mrs Angela Centorrino
Careers Adviser

INDUSTRIAL ARTS Projects..

Celia Franklin and Ahmed Diab finished their Industrial Arts-Timber Major Projects last term. Both students worked extremely hard, giving up their holidays to ensure quality finishes were attained. They worked consistently and diligently all year and should be very pleased with their efforts. Congratulations and good luck! Year 12 Projects to be completed in 2014 are underway.

“Measure twice, cut once Please!!!”

Mr Van Munster
Industrial Arts Teacher
On Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th October our Year 9 Food Technology classes held a Morning Tea Party. Students invited staff members from around the school to attend. They spent lessons leading up to the event, planning job roles, pre-cooking sweet and savoury foods to serve and organised invitations to make all this possible.

The Unit our Year 9 Food Technology students are currently studying is, \textit{Food for Special Occasions: Party Time}. The planning and preparation for this event ties in nicely with what they are studying, allowing them to put theory into practise. Miss Grima and Miss Hawkins were very proud of the organisation and leadership skills the students demonstrated. It was also very nice to enjoy the lovely food they made as a bonus! Well done Year 9 Food Technology!

\textbf{Year 12 Textile & Design Major Projects}

Our Year 12 Textiles and Design students of 2013 have outdone themselves this year with their Major Textile projects. Each project is unique and many hours of hard work have gone into the making of these exquisite projects.

Each of our students started out with a concept in mind and with the assistance and guidance of their Textiles teacher, Mrs Simpson, each concept was refined. After months of blood, sweat and tears, they handed in their final projects.

We are extremely proud of each of our Year 12 Textiles students and the work they have put in to their projects. The invaluable assistance and guidance from their teacher, Mrs Simpson is also greatly appreciated.

\textbf{Yellow Bodice & Flowered Skirt} 
-Margarita Dimitrevska-
Red Corset & Tasselled Skirt
-Olivia Pilot-

White Bodice with Embroidery & Multi-hued Petal Skirt
-Tiffanie Ong-

Dancing Doll & Costumes
-Jessica Allen-

Nautical Themed Quilt
-Lauren Cini-

3 Embroided/Appliqued Cushions
-Miki Gaddes-

Mrs N Dexter
TAS Home Economics Head Teacher
Modern History Excursion to Sydney Jewish Museum

Year 12 Modern History students visited the Sydney Jewish Museum on Monday 9th September. In class, we have been studying Conflict in Europe and the Holocaust, and so this visit gave us the opportunity to gain a greater understanding to the topic.

We participated in a seminar which provided background to what we would eventually see within the museum. The lecturer talked about Hitler and his persecution of minority groups, which did not only include Jewish people but also the Roma, homosexuals and the disabled. The lecturer gave students the opportunity to participate in the talk, enabling us to help define the event, whilst also guiding us to new ways of interpreting it.

After the seminar, we were privileged to hear from Joe, a Hungarian Jew and a Holocaust survivor. He told the story of how he escaped persecution by digging trenches for German soldiers in 1944, and then hiding in them when everyone went home. He then rode a train to Budapest, having to jump off the train twice to avoid being found by the police. He was then invited to be a part of the Hungarian Underground, carrying out various missions on their behalf. His father and other family members were killed in concentration camps. After the war Joe married and studied part-time to gain an Engineering degree. He moved to Australia after the Hungarian revolution in 1956.

We were then allowed to wander throughout the museum, which presented us with primary sources in the form of pictures, newspapers and artifacts as well as secondary information. It also detailed survivors and those lost in connection to Australia as well as containing a children’s memorial to pay tribute to the children murdered in concentration camps.

The excursion was an amazing experience, as it allowed us to put faces and names to the facts and figures we have read about in the text book, making the Holocaust and the Second World War more than just an event in history. It was something the class needed in order to understand the overall horrible event and its devastating effects. We also realise that we must look forward in order to not repeat it. The Year 12 Modern History class would like to thank Ms Camilleri for organising the excursion; it was an amazing experience that none of us will forget anytime soon.

........Claudia Paposki - Year 12

Mr P Slater
Head Teacher HSIE
This year, Blakehurst High School’s SRC will be hosting a Multicultural Day on Friday the 15th of November. It is a day to celebrate and promote the many diverse cultures that make up our comprehensive and harmonious school.

The day will include International food, activities from various cultures and fantastic performances!

**Some instructions for students on the day include:**

- Bring your normal class equipment for period 0 and period 1.
- Students can wear mufti in the colours of their cultural background,
- Wear suitable running footwear as you will be participating in sporting activities.
- Please bring $2 to cover the costs for the performances and extra money for the yummy International foods sold at recess and lunch at the International Food Hall located in the Quad.
- Note that the canteen will be closed all day

It is important to keep our languages; to love their sound, their modulation, their rhythm. It’s crucial to value the cultures that shape our identities. If we all stand together made of different languages and cultures, we can make a better world and a better tomorrow. We are and will remain a multicultural school! :)

---

Mrs N Nozica  
SRC Co-ordinator
BHS Cheerleading Report

Wow! What a Year!

The Blakehurst High School CHEER Squad has had an unbelievably successful year and continues to improve at an astonishing rate.

This year we attended two competitions, performed at a charity match and will again provide the pre-match entertainment for the Grand Final of the Waratah Bowl (Gridiron).

The girls are some of the hardest working, dedicated and talented athletes that our school has to offer. Cheerleading in Australia is far removed from the traditional American style Cheerleading. The girls train very hard and incorporate elements of Gymnastics and Dance to create challenging and exciting routines. The Blakehurst Squad train on Wednesday during sport under the guidance of their coaches from Bring it on Sports - Brooke Bowne and Elissa Manera. In the lead up to competitions the Squad train during their recess and lunchtimes to make sure their routines are polished and perfect.

This year the BHS Squad attended the biggest CHEER & DANCE competition in Australia hosted by The Australian All Star Cheerleading Federation which was held at the State Sports Centre Homebush Bay over a weekend in September. Our Squad competed in the Scholastic Pom (Dance), Level 2 Cheer (Stunting and Dance), Level 2 Group Stunt (5 person stunt team) and Level 3 Group Stunt (5 person stunt team). The girls were fantastic ambassadors for the school and were lucky enough to win 5th Place in Pom, 5th Place in Level 2 Cheer and 1st in both Level 2 & 3 Group Stunt!

The Squad also competed at the UCA & UDA Australian Open Cheerleading & Dance Championships in October. This competition was held at Luna Park and attracted teams from all over Australia. The Blakehurst Squad once again was outstanding. We were lucky enough to gain places in all routines entered! High School Pom: 3rd Place, Level 2 Cheer: 2nd Place, Level 2 Group Stunt: 2nd Place and Level 3 Group stunt: 1st Place and National Champions!

In addition to our outstanding competition results the Blakehurst Cheer Squad also performed at the 2013 Charity Gridiron Match held at 5 Sports Caringbah which helped raise over $3000 for Juvenile Arthritis. The Squad stayed after their performance to sell raffle tickets during the game and show support for teenagers suffering from this debilitating condition.

The BHS Squad still has one more performance coming up this year! The Squad will be performing on 14th December as part of the Pre-match entertainment for the Grand Final of the Waratah Bowl (NSW Gridiron Grand Final). The Game will be held at 5 Sports Caringbah. Spectators are very welcome; the Entertainment kicks off at 5:30pm.

Finally it has been an absolute pleasure to be involved with the co-ordination of this Squad in 2013. The improvements that the girls have made in terms of skill, flexibility and most importantly team work, were above and beyond my expectations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the girls involved in the Squad. They have cheerfully couriered their daughters to the competitions and vocally supported them during performances which were all outside of school hours and often took up whole weekends! Your dedication is what has made this year so successful! Thank you again! Now I’m looking forward to 2014… Squad try outs will be in Term 1 ALL students, boys and girls are welcome!

2013 BHS Cheer Squad
Nurtasya Afalon, Avgoustina Aleveris, Madelaine Allen, Jana Atanasova, Ashleigh Autard, Erin Bayas, Rebecca Gray-Schwarz, Danielle Graoroski, Dayna James, April McLeod Jamal Mohamad, Sarah Mohamad Vanessa Rocha-Rogers Valentina Toledo Celeste Trpkoski Sheridan Smith Kayla Tzavellas

Belinda Berrett
BHS Cheer Squad Co-ordinator
NAIDOC

On Thursday 31st October, Blakehurst High School officially launched the mural which was started during NAIDOC Week this year. NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Observance Committee and is a time to remember the past and present experiences of Aboriginal people. The inspiration for the mural came from many people.

The mural has the word “DISAPPEARING?” written across a map of Australia. The map of Australia has the original Aboriginal language groups painted on it. Usually we see maps of Australia simply divided into the states of Australia, but we wanted people to see the Aboriginal language groups that Australia is divided into. We were inspired to create the mural by Aboriginal poets like Oodgeroo Noonucal and Lorna Munroe - all of Year 9 was lucky enough to meet Lorna Munroe in Term 2 this year. Lots of people have been asking why we have written the word “DISAPPEARING” with a question mark and we want people to ask questions. If people ask questions it gives us the opportunity to discuss the importance of Aboriginal history and culture.

Blakehurst High School is a brilliant school for many reasons, but one of the many reasons why we love it so much is because our school celebrates and embraces cultures from all over the world. We have students from many different countries all over the world.

Australia is known as the lucky country. People from all over the world want to come and live in Australia. Unfortunately, we can't use the word “lucky” to describe some of the things in Australia's history, especially when it comes to Aboriginal people. Aboriginal culture is one of the oldest living cultures in the world and if you live in Australia and you love living in this lucky country, then you would agree that we are all responsible for making sure that Aboriginal history and culture does not disappear.

A lot of Aboriginal history and culture has already been lost and has disappeared and we need to be very careful that we don't lose any more of this amazing culture. Our school is built on the land of the Bediagal people of the Eora Nation. The Bediagal people once lived on the land where our school is built. We have written the word “DISAPPEARING” with a question mark because although Aboriginal culture has disappeared in some ways, it has NOT disappeared yet. It is up to all of us to make sure that it does not disappear altogether. If you live in Australia, if you love this country, it is your responsibility to know about the original inhabitants of this country and their history and culture. It is also your responsibility to make sure that one of the oldest and most amazing cultures in the world does not disappear. The mural will stand as a reminder every day - not just during times like NAIDOC Week, but as a reminder every week of the year that Australia has a very unique culture that will only disappear if we allow it to.

Thank you to Mr Anthony Jenkins for providing his amazing artistic skills and knowledge - we couldn't have done the mural without him. He gave up a LOT of his own time and energy to help us and we are so lucky that he did this. Thank you to Taubmans, Bristol and Whitehorse paints for donating the paint - we couldn't have painted a mural without paint. Thank you to Aunty Fay Carroll and Sharon Simms for their presence at the launch of the mural and for their support over the years. Thank you to the parents who came along to the launch to show their support and thank you to the students - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students - who worked so very hard to paint the mural.

Aboriginal history and culture will only disappear if we allow it to and no matter what your cultural background, we all live in this beautiful country, Australia, and we can all help to make sure that Aboriginal history and culture does NOT disappear.

Miss Kirsty Everett
Aboriginal Liaison Officer & Darug Woman of the Eora Nation
'WHAT ABOUT TONIGHT'

Late last term we were delighted to host a performance of a fantastic ‘boy band’ called ‘What About Tonight’ at our Junior Assembly. The boys are ambassadors for the Salvation Army Youth Homeless initiative. Bee Orsini from the Salvation Army came with the boys to talk to our students about Youth Homelessness and to raise awareness of the wonderful job the Salvation Army does for young people who find themselves in this situation. ‘What About Tonight’ were finalists in the TV hit series X-Factor in 2012 and performed their new single for a very appreciative audience here at Blakehurst High! Exciting stuff!!

REGIONAL ORCHESTRA

I am delighted to announce that two of our young violinists were selected to participate in the Regional Orchestra after attending NSW Music Camp last term and will perform at the Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 5 November, 2013. Congratulations to Annabelle Wong in Year 8 and Chrysanthi Diasnos in Year 7. You have both been outstanding ambassadors for our school.

SCHOOLS’ SPECTACULAR

Once again we will be taking a group of students to the 2013 Schools’ Spectacular on 29 November. This year the concert will begin a little earlier than previous years, so we will be leaving school directly after Roll Call. The response this year at BHS was amazing! We sold our 40 tickets within a week of the announcement!! So if you missed out this year – my apologies. I know it will be a fantastic concert celebrating 30 years of music and entertainment. For the next few weeks there will be lots of Assessments happening in all faculties. Make sure you revise your work and be prepared to do the very best you can in your exams and other Assessment tasks. Make it a successful finish to a great year!

Visual Artists...Yrs 7 8 9

Congratulations on your amazing efforts!

Year 9 with their Awesome Floral Paintings

Year 7 with their Drawing Exhibition

Ms J Jacobsen
Head Teacher & CAPA Team

A Clay Cobra Vase from Year 8

Great Job Guys!
France 2013

Once again it was my pleasure to accompany 6 excited Year 10 French students and two parents to France during the September holidays. As usual we were accompanied by Heathcote High School and Port Hacking High School.

After a long tiring flight the group landed at Charles de Gaulle Airport and from there was transported to our accommodation in Paris. After depositing our luggage we set off to discover the sites of Paris starting with the famous Notre Dame Cathedral followed by The Louvre. The following days were spent visiting Montmartre, the Champs Elysee, the Eiffel Tower, Versailles, Arc de Triomphe and a river cruise down the Seine. Of course no visit to Paris would be complete without a day at Parc Disney or Parc Asterix.

After our stay in Paris we boarded our coach and began our adventure discovering the north of France. We visited Villers Bretonneux where Australians are very welcome thanks to the work they did rebuilding the city after the First World War. At Rouen we saw where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake; Bayeux with its famous Tapestry, Amboise; Angers with their Medieval castles and delectable chocolate shops. The fortified city of St Malo, Mont Saint Michel, Chenonceau, the Australian and American War Memorials, the Somme and the beaches of Normandy such as Arromanches.

The students made new friends and saw many interesting places and I am sure they will treasure many wonderful memories they accumulated on this trip. I would like to thank this wonderful group of students who made the trip truly memorable for me and the other accompanying teachers.
Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

Mid-autumn festival is known as 中秋节 (zhōng qiū jié) in Chinese and it is one of the biggest and most popular festivals celebrated in China and Chinese-speaking communities. It is also known as the reunion festival where families will unite together to give thanks for harmonious unions. Last term, Years 7, 8 and 9 Chinese classes celebrated Chinese Mid-Autumn festival with a feast! The students and Ms Lao had a great time eating delicious Yum-Cha style dim sums and moon-cakes.

Mrs A Mangraviti
Head Teacher LOTE
PDHPE Faculty – Report

Higher School Certificate
As the HSC draws to a close I would like to wish our Year 12 students all the very best as they await their results. I am sure that all students tried their very best and will gain the benefit of this as they prepare for life after school. Congratulations also to a number of students that have applied for early entry into University courses and have already been accepted.

PDHPE Team…
… will once again be busy in 2014 with senior courses proving popular with students moving into Year 11. There will be three 2 unit PDHPE classes, one Sports Coaching and one Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation class.

Congratulations…
… to David Hughes, Nathan King and Michael Amey who all completed their Rugby League Referees Accreditation here at school and have gone on to referee in the St George Junior Rugby League competition. At the recent referees awards night, the boys all received high commendation for their efforts and expertise.

Cheer Leading Squad
Blakehurst High School continues to spread its name further afield with the success of Ms Berrett’s Cheer Leading Squad. At the recent championships they were once again a credit to themselves, their families, their school and most of all Ms Berrett. Congratulations on all your fantastic results!

New Program
Mrs Rizzo-Liu has also introduced a new program to the school where nominated students meet with other schools and discuss various issues that are relevant to young people. Mrs Rizzo-Liu will have more in-depth information in the next issue of our Blakehurst News.

Congratulations…
… must go to Mr Nathan Smith from the PDHPE staff, on his outstanding effort in coming second in the recent Coolangatta Gold. Mr Smith is a truly elite athlete who also puts the same effort and determination into his teaching. Due to Mr Smith’s heavy work load he will not be able to continue on as Sports Organiser in 2014. He is handing this very demanding and time consuming job onto Mr Ben Kemp, who I am sure will continue in the same vein as Mr Smith by keeping our school at the fore front of the St George zone Sports Competition.

End of Year Interest Electives
During the last three days of this term, December 16th to 18th each school year will participate in different activities which are compulsory, as follows:

- Year 7 – Compulsory Swim School
- Year 8 - various activities including: Fishing, Film Appreciation, School Sport, Hand Bag Making and Table Tennis.
- Year 9 – Peer Support training
- Year 10 – All My Own Work and preparation for Year 11,
- Year 11 – 25 hour Compulsory PDHPE Course. Students need to pay the required costs ($90) to the school office as soon as possible.

Mr A Yelavich – Head Teacher
PDHPE Team

TELSTRA KIDS FUND GRANT

This year, Blakehurst High School is one of 625 community non-profit organisations across Australia that will share in $750,000 of Telstra’s Kids Fund Grants available through the Telstra Foundation. Initiated by Telstra employees, Telstra’s Kids Fund has helped boost children’s connections to their local communities for the past eleven years by providing improved facilities, programs and equipment to communities across Australia. Recipients have included schools, art and culture groups, sport and recreational clubs, disability services and environmental organisations.

A big thank you to Stephanie Bogdanovski and her father, Zoran, for their efforts in obtaining the Telstra Kids Fund Grant for the PDHPE faculty. The $1200 grant will be utilised for the school weight room to purchase a rowing machine. Stephanie was very busy with her study for the HSC but still managed to complete and submit the successful application.

2013 St George Junior Rugby League Referees Presentation Night
Michael Amey Year 10, Nathan King Year 11 and David Hughes Year 10 received numerous awards for their outstanding contribution to Rugby League in the St George area.

These boys took part in a Rugby League refereeing course organised by our school and throughout the year represented the school at various Gala Days and PSSA League competitions for the St George District Association. At the presentation night, David was named winner of the 2013 Junior Achievement Award as well as receiving awards for Grand Final Touch Judge in both the Under 11 and Under 13 (div 2) grades. Nathan received the Rookie of the Year as well as a Grand Final Touch Judge Award. The boys were also acknowledged for attendance at both training and meetings. These boys were a credit to themselves, their parents and their school, with many teachers and parents remarking on the great job they had done each week with PSSA games.

Yours in Sport

Mr A Yelavich – Head Teacher
PDHPE Team
SUGGESTED ARTICLES:

Making the most of parent teacher nights:  

Starting high school is tough on parents too:  

The social media background check: why your teen needs to be careful now:  

Essentials for working teenagers:  

Resume for teenagers:  

What is depression?:  

Why teenagers cut or self-harm:  

Back to school, earlier to bed:  

Mentoring for teens:  

Explainer: What is an anxiety disorder?  

Explainer: Anorexia and bulimia  

Social media makes teenagers more aware of others’ needs:  

Parents’ guide to Tumblr:  

Blogging good for anxious teens:  

Exam stress - how to help your child:  

No body needs the body police:  
Bexley North Public School Fete

10am - 3pm Saturday 16th Nov
116 Kingsland Road Bexley North

* Prizes
* Stalls
* Rides
* BBQ
* Face Painting
* Jumping Castle
* Craft & Plants
* Cakes
* Multicultural Entertainment

$20 Earlybird Unlimited Ride Pass.

Free Entry!

On the Day:
Single Ride tickets: $5
Unlimited Ride Pass: $25

Stall & Ride Pass enquiries:
email: bnpspandc@gmail.com
BNPS P&C

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HSC & TPC
Course Information Evening
Monday 11 November, 6pm
Cameraygal Building, J Block, Ground Floor
St Leonards Campus, TAFE NSW
(formerly North Sydney TAFE)

We will once again be offering students the opportunity of studying units in the Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation (TPC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) in 2014.

We encourage potential students and their parents/guardians to attend the information session where both HSC and TPC options will be discussed.

Timetables and course information will be available at this session.

Teaching staff will be available on the night to answer any questions you may have about both these Year 12 equivalent courses.

For more information, please contact the Coordinators on 9942 0732

Unlock your potential. It starts here.
On Monday, 11 November 2013 you are invited to a free parenting seminar featuring a presentation by Paul Dillon, best-selling author of the book "Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs" (2009).

Paul has extensive experience presenting drug information to parents and young people both in Australia and internationally. He is a highly regarded social commentator and has appeared on Sunrise, The 7PM Project and Today.

This seminar follows on from the hugely popular Michael McQueen presentation "Engaging Gen Y" which was held in May 2013. The presentation will highlight a number of issues that are of increasing concern to parents including:

- Current trends in alcohol and drug use amongst young people.
- How to hold safe parties for teenagers.
- Secondary supply of alcohol laws.

Date
Monday, 11 November 2013

Time
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Where
Monk Auditorium, Georges River College - Oatley Senior Campus, Oatley Avenue and Hurstville Road, Oatley

Bookings Essential
Phone 9330 9551 or visit stgeorgeparents.eventbrite.com.au

A light dinner will be provided
LOWES
SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR
BLAKEHURST HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL SALES
DAYS x 2
AT LOWES STORE – HURSTVILLE
Thursday 5th December from 12.00pm to 9.00pm
Friday 6th December from 9.00am to 5.00pm

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT
Off the regular price on all uniform items for
Everyone at Blakehurst High School

PLUS
BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT
additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS
Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers
to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS
Lowes will pay your school annual 5% rebate on every
uniform purchased in-store.
Did you know that 10 to 16 percent of Australian children are thought to have a learning disability, particularly in literacy?

Untreated learning disabilities cause anxiety, poor self-esteem, relationship difficulties, unemployment and may result in children dropping out of school. However with prompt and accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment a child’s life can be turned around.

Join us for an informative evening with special guest Antonio Canaris.

Antonia will speak about how to detect the signs of learning disabilities, treatment for the education and psychological wellbeing of children with learning disabilities and provide advice for parents, caregivers and teachers on where to get help.

Antonia is an educational consultant with a Master’s Degree in special education and is a member of the Australian Dyslexia Association, SPELD NSW and the International Dyslexia Association.

Bookings essential 9330 6142

This talk will be given in English and translated in Mandarin.

Yarrawarrah Public School

Yulefest Fete

Prepurchase ride tickets at: www.trybooking.com/DOPD

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