Welcome to a New School Year

To all our families, especially those new to Blakehurst High, we extend a warm welcome to the 2013 school year. We hope this year will be a successful and productive one for all.

At Blakehurst High we want all students to succeed, to achieve their best, whatever that may be. Staff at Blakehurst High are committed to continual improvement in all aspects of teaching and learning, in order to maximise the educational opportunities for our students. Of course student outcomes are enhanced when we receive support from home and we work together towards this aim. I thank you for this support.

Staff Changes

The 2013 school year sees a number of staff changes due mainly to promotion of staff or the retirement/extended leave of some long standing members of staff.

We welcome Mr Rafik Dahouk to the Mathematics staff. Rafik was appointed through the Merit procedure in 2012 to fill a vacant position in the Mathematics faculty. Also on the Mathematics staff, Ms Jo-Anne Louey is on maternity leave and is replaced by Mr Richard Wong for 2013.

On the Science staff we welcome back Ms Zoe Geogopoulou who returns to us after a spell teaching at Randwick Boys High School.

Mr Stephen Black joins the Industrial Arts staff replacing Mr Steve Vaughan who retired in 2012.

Ms Sarah Rumiz has joined the LOTE faculty as a result of Mr Jacob Nassif leaving Blakehurst High.

Ms Kym Rizzo Liu joins the PD/H/PE staff from Rooty Hill HS – Kym was successful in gaining this position through the Merit procedure in 2012.

In the HSIE faculty, Nora Ghosn returns from maternity leave.

Both Kerrie Codey and Helen Elakis (CAPA) are presently on maternity leave – they plan to return later in 2013. I am sure you will all join me in warmly welcoming the new staff to Blakehurst High School as well as wish all outgoing staff the very best in their future endeavours.

Fabulous 2012 HSC Results

The whole staff was very excited with the excellent HSC results received by Blakehurst High students in 2012. Congratulations to all students. Of course these great results are not possible without a lot of hard work from both staff and students. I have included some of the highlights below:

Top ATAR - Selena (Ziwei) ZENG achieved an ATAR of 99.0 (n.b. – max. ATAR possible is 99.95).

Other notable ATARs included:

- Jason (Shi Rong) PENG – 98.75
- Lik Wong YU – 98.45
- Bryan HUNG - 98.1
- Zi Ying SU – 98.1
- Kristine MARINKOVIC – 97.9
- Kenny CHUNG – 97.45
- Jonathon WU – 97.45
- Virginia (Wenjia) GU – 97.05
- Jeff NG – 94.75
- Bassel MOURAD – 94.2
- Marija HRISTOVSKA - 94
- Kylie FENG – 92.55
- Mohammed SABSABI – 92.35
- David PILIPOVIC – 92.0
- Matthew EDENBOROUGH – 91.65
- Mark LANGLEY – 91.05
- Meg JOHNSON – 90.05
- Wendy (Jiaxin) PENG – 90.4
- Kiara MERES-WASTELL – 90.0

270A Woniora Road
BLAKEHURST NSW 2221
Ph: 9546 3281  Fax: 9547 1024
Email: blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.blakehurst-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
State Merit List
Lik Wong Yu - 1st in the State in VET Business Services.

HSC All-Round Achievers List
These students gained Band 6 in all their 10 units.
- Kristine Marinkovic
- Jason Peng
- Lik Wong Yu

Honour roll
100 students (64% of the cohort compared to 58% in 2011) in 25 subjects named on the State Merit list.
In Extension courses there were 32 top Band 4 results (compared to 15 in 2010 and 26 in 2011).
Band 4 results in Extension courses included 19 in Mathematics Extension 1 (top mark was 98%), 11 in Mathematics Extension 2 (top mark was 94%), 1 in Modern Greek (top mark was 92%), and 1 in History extension (top mark of 96%).
In 2 unit courses there were 68 top Band 6 results.

Other achievements
4 students gained a Life Skills HSC.

Dual credentialing
There were 14 TAFE credentials awarded in various TAFE courses.

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

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

Wednesday March 13
All Welcome!

2013 Student Advisers
Hopefully all students have settled down to work and are enjoying their learning and time at school. If parents do have any concerns however, your child’s Student Adviser is the first point of contact. I have listed below the 2013 Student Advisers. Please ring the school to make an appointment to discuss any issues.

Year 7 – Ms Sophie Koutsoukos and Mr Troy Van Munster
Year 8 – Ms Wiryakusuma and Ms Pappas
Year 9 – Mr Smith and Ms Berrett
Year 10 – Ms Loizos and Ms Evangelinos
Year 11 – Mr Irani and Ms Butler
Year 12 – Mr Baker and Mr Estephan

2013 School Fees
By now most of you would have received your 2013 school fee notice. Please assist your school by paying your child’s school fees promptly so we can continue to provide a quality education for all. All fees paid directly benefit your children.

If there are any problems in paying fees in full (this can be done by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS), then they may be paid in instalments. Please contact the school’s administration office to organise. In cases of financial hardship, please contact me or the School Administration Manager, Ms Morris.
Study Skills Online continues in 2013!
The P&C has again funded the online study skills program for 2013. This valuable online 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 (the link is also found on the Blakehurst High School’s web site) and login as a subscriber with these details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User name:</th>
<th>blakehursths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Password:</td>
<td>186results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013 DER-NSW Parent Survey

We seek your views on the NSW one-to-one laptop program.

A formal evaluation of the program is being undertaken by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training in collaboration with the University of Wollongong. It is an effort to determine how the DER-NSW program may impact on learning and teaching education across the state. The evaluation has taken place over 4 years.

Please go to the link below and complete the 2013 survey. It won't take you too long.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DER-NSW-Pr2013?c=8236

To access the link please enter it into the long address bar at the top of the page of your internet browser (not into a search engine such as Google) and press enter or go – this will take you to the survey.

Individuals cannot be identified in the data.

FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA

We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to the families who attend your school.

We would be most obliged if you could advise the parents and carers about our free service in your school newsletter and include a link to our website on the links page of your website.

We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia at www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au to assess the suitability of including our website on your links page. If you are happy to include a link to our website we would be most grateful if you do so by arranging for your webmaster to post the following code:

<a href="http://familylawmattersaustralia.com.au" title="Family Law Network Australia - Where you find information on separation and divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and child support">Family Law Network Australia</a>

We thank you in anticipation of your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries I can be contacted on 0448 148 145.

Best regards

Julie Dye
Welcome back!
Please continue to take an interest in your child's learning.
Uniforms – Correct jumpers & shoes PLEASE!

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S Report

We hope all students have come back refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2013. Year 7 are settling in very well to the school. In the coming weeks they will all be doing further activities with their Peer Support leaders to help them be successful learners.

Homework
Parents can assist their children by regularly talking to them about school and being aware of what is happening at school. Although your child may say they don’t want you to show an interest, most of us like the visible support of those close to us. When you ask about homework don’t believe it when they say they have “nothing”. Each year 7 student has been given a school diary and all other students need to purchase a diary, that is taken to every lesson and in which they must record all homework, coming tests and assignments. Year 7 students need to get into the habit of doing a short (about 20 minutes) of homework every day. In addition to set work, they can go over the day’s lessons to ensure they understand what was taught and, of course, do some reading. As the years progress they need to extend the time so that when they reach the senior years they have the study skills to be successful.

School Calendar
Our busy calendar is available for all parents and students to see on the school website. If you can’t read the entire entry, the full text can be read by hovering the mouse over the text.

Year 12 Exams
Year 12 will begin their half-yearly exams at the end of this term. Year 12 passes very quickly and before the exams they need to be in class during every lesson and focussed on learning. Most students in Year 12 now have “free periods”. Although this is a novelty for them, they need to use their time sensibly and use them as “study periods”. During study periods, students may not leave the premises.

While much learning happens by chance or opportunity, most formal learning requires effort, persistence and planning. All Year 12 students need to be focussed on revision and study during their next few weeks. Please encourage them at home by talking to them about how they have organised their time. Ask to see their “study plan”.

Uniform
Almost every student has returned to school in full uniform. The two things that seem to cause the most problems are jumpers and shoes. We haven’t had problems with jumpers…..yet! Please ensure that your child has a school jumper and, if needed, a jacket, before the days get colder.

Shoes should be black, leather lace-ups. The reason for this, in addition to being uniform, is that they provide protection in practical lessons such as Science, Food Tech, Woodwork, Metalwork, etc. Students can be excluded from practical classes if they do not have the correct footwear. Please ensure that your child has the correct footwear.

Some Year 7 girls have “mary-janes” which have a strap rather than lace-up. We understand that parents have bought these in good faith as they are sold as school shoes but they do not provided protection for the foot. We ask parents that when the girls grow out of them or at the end of Year 7 they are replaced with the correct footwear. We will not accept them in any other year or if they are bought during the year.

Ballet flats, canvas shoes and joggers are not acceptable. “Everyone else” does not wear incorrect uniform. If you are unsure, phone me before buying.

Lyn Paton
Deputy Principal
As part of the Welfare Program at Blakehurst High School, students are given the opportunity to attend theatre productions at school which focus on current issues.

**Arts in Education**

**All Year 7**

Cybershorts – “Planting the Seeds of Cyber Respect”  
Friday 22 March

An interactive performance workshop, that looks at the consequences of online actions. This workshop deals with the Moral & Ethical issues faced by the Tech Savvy 1-Generation.

**Cost**: $5 payable at the school front office

**All Years 8, 9 & 10**

The Pack – “Planting the Seeds of Strength”  
Year 8 May 17 - Year 9 June 7 - Year 10 June 21

It's hard to be an individual when we are constantly being told what to think and how to act. Teenagers are the hardest hit by the constant bombardment from the media and their peers. The pressure to join the pack is always there. These 2 plays using comedy and drama, offer an opportunity for teens to recognise their own behaviour and that of their peers.

Cost: $5 payable at the school front office
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 not 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
06/03/13
- 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
06/03/13
- 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
06/03/13
- 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
A Reminder to Parents to Notify the School about Your Child’s Health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enroll your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months), should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Kind Regards

Sophia Koutsoukos
Learning and Support Teacher
From the CAREERS Adviser

Careers at Blakehurst High has gone Digital!

I am very excited to be able to inform our Blakehurst High School community that the Careers Department now has a presence on the "World Wide Web". You will be able to find us at: www.blakehursthighcareers.com. You can also find a link on the school's webpage.

Since arriving at Blakehurst High last year, I continue to be over awed by the fact that students and parents are proactive in researching and investigating post-school options for themselves. I have also been impressed by the number of parents who have made contact with me wanting further information about courses and occupations.

It was in this light that I started investigating alternative options to be able to offer a service that would meet the needs of all stakeholders in our community. By setting up the website I am hoping that this will help to make the mind-boggling task of researching options somewhat easier by providing a "one-stop" location for Careers related resources and information.

I am also hoping that this website will enhance the communication between me, the students and parents as the site also offers an email registration option to receive regular Newsletters and information as well as a Blakehurst High School Careers Facebook page, to those who choose to register via the website.

Please take the time to click on the above link; I am sure you will find the site a valuable asset to assist with Career planning for our student.

Mrs Centorrino
Careers Adviser

HSIE Report

Ski Trip 2013

While it is still early in the year preparations are already underway for the 2013 ski trip to Thredbo for students in Years 10 and 11. The dates for this trip are from Sunday 28th July till Wednesday 31st July.

Students will have 3 days skiing with lessons on each of the days to help them progress. After 3 days it is expected that all students will be competent enough to tackle the entire beginner, and some of the intermediate runs, on the mountain.

Included in the price of the trip, which will be advised shortly, is all Lift passes and Lessons, all Meals, Transport as well as Hire Skis and Boots. Notes will be distributed shortly and students can pay a $200 deposit before the end of term to book a spot. It is also possible to organise a payment plan leading up to July. The proviso on booking that spot is that all elective school fees are paid and up to date and also that school performance and behaviour has been satisfactory. Places are also limited so it is best to act quickly.

If there are any questions regarding the trip they can be directed to me at the school. I hope to see many students take advantage of this great opportunity and enjoy an excursion they will always remember.

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

**Science WELCOMES Year 7**

Science is one of the exciting new subjects for students arriving in Blakehurst High School. This year’s Year 7 students have so far demonstrated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for working in the laboratory, and have enjoyed learning the names of all the science apparatus.

The Science faculty appreciated all the parents and carers who attended the *Meet the Teacher’s evening* in February, and encourage all parents to take an active role in their child’s experiences in Science. An electronic version of the Work Book for Topic One has been uploaded onto The Blakehurst High School Moodle Website so that remote access is available at all times. All three remaining topics will be posted up as they are studied.

To enhance student understanding of Topic Two, *Exploring Living Organisms*, a field trip has been arranged and booked for the first two days of August. Attendance at this excursion is regarded as compulsory, and any parent wishing to discuss the mandatory nature of this trip may do so with the Science Head Teacher, Ms O’Brien. A copy of the *permission slip* is included in this Newsletter. Please print off, complete, and return with cash or cheque to the front office either before school, recess or lunchtime.

*For the student….*

Any student who prints off this page and correctly identifies (and spells) all the apparatus below, can receive a *Merit Certificate* from their class teacher.

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**Senior Biology**

*Year 11 Preliminary Biology* students will be attending an excursion to Shelley Beach on Tuesday March 19. The *mandatory* excursion will enhance students understanding of the effect of abiotic variables on the distribution of plant and animal species on a rocky platform. *A written Assessment Task will be undertaken on the day of the field trip for all students enrolled in Year 11 Biology.*

The excursion will also highlight the environmental impacts humans have had on this delicate ecosystem and will give them an opportunity to use the new state-of-art YEO-KAL intelligent water quality analyser. In other Biology related news our Year 12 Biology students will be travelling to the University of NSW to view the collection in the Museum of Disease as part of their studies for the core topic *‘The Search for Better Health’*.

More news soon!

*Mrs Deborah Fabrizio*

*Biology Teacher*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursion Title and No.</th>
<th>Year 7 Darling Harbour Excursion341</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESTINATION</td>
<td>Darling Harbour – Sydney Wildlife World and Sydney Aquarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPOSE</td>
<td>This excursion is designed to complement the “Exploring Living Organisms” topic that will be studied in Science lessons during Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEARS ATTENDING</td>
<td>All Year 7 classes: 7B, 7L, 7K, 7R, 7S, 7H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DATE                   | Thursday 1\textsuperscript{ST} August 7R,7S,7H  
Friday 2\textsuperscript{ND} August 7L,7K,7B  
9am – meet at Hurstville station on day of excursion  
3pm – dismissed from Hurstville Station |
| COST                   | $28.00 (includes travel cost and entry into the two attractions) |
| TRAVEL                 | Students will meet their class teacher at the station and will travel as a group of three classes to Darling Harbour. Students will be supervised by teachers during the excursion |
| TEACHERS ATTENDING     | Thursday 1\textsuperscript{ST} August: Mrs O’Brien, Mr Roff, Ms Georgopolou  
Friday 2\textsuperscript{ND} August: Mrs Ware, Ms Apostolou, Mr Baker |
| ENQUIRIES              | 9546 - 3281 |
| UNIFORM                | Full School Uniform:  
NB: students who are not in full uniform will be sent back to school. |
| FOOD AND BEVERAGES     | Students are to supply their own food and drink. There will be limited opportunities for purchasing beverages and snacks. |
| SPECIAL CONDITIONS     |  
- No swimming permitted.  
- Students must bring pens/pencil plus a clipboard folder for completion of the worksheets issued on the day.  
- i-pods, walkmans and other electronic equipment must be left at home. Phones only, are permitted  
- Any student who misbehaves during the excursion will have their parent contacted to arrange for the student to be picked up from the venue  
- Students with special medical issues such as allergies, or those who require medication, must verbally notify their child’s class teacher AND provide written notification to the school regarding risk. |

Parents/Caregiver  
Please complete the consent information below and return to class teacher by Friday, 5\textsuperscript{th} APRIL 2013.  
Ms L O’Brien  
Head Teacher Science  
Mrs G Ware  
Excursion Co-ordinator  

\textbf{PARENT CONSENT Excursion N° 341}  
I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter ____________________________ of class_______ to attend the Year 7 excursion to Darling Harbour on Thursday 1\textsuperscript{ST} August or Friday 2\textsuperscript{ND} August, 2013.  
I have read the information above and will encourage my son/daughter/ward to comply with all conditions of the excursion. I understand that there will be no swimming allowed during the excursion. I agree that I will collect my son/daughter from the excursion, should they misbehave at any time during the field trip.  

\underline{(Parent/Caregiver name -please print)} \underline{\hspace{5cm}} \underline{(Parent/Caregiver signature)} \underline{\hspace{5cm}} \underline{\text{Date}}  
\\  
Parent phone contact ____________________________ Medicare Number ________________________________
The Streamwatch program is a community service based state wide program which is run by the Australian Museum held every Wednesday at Blakehurst High School during sport.

What is stream watch about? Basically we get rain water samples from local storm water drains and test it to ensure the water in the area is of a consistent quality.

We test two sites (both of which are in West Street Blakehurst) to ensure our results are reliable. Some tests that we hold are the pH test, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and bacterial tests. All the test results are then sent to the Australian Museum for their records.

Linda O'Brien
Head Teacher Science

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Parent Information Evening for Year 9 Students

This Term, all students in Year 9 will be eligible to borrow a Lenovo Laptop specifically tailored to the NSW Department of Education requirements.

A parent Information Evening will be held at 6pm on Wednesday March 13 2013 in the school hall. At this meeting critical information regarding the ‘Laptop User Charter’ will be explained, as well as any questions answered. It is important that at least one parent/guardian attend this meeting with their child, as a laptop cannot be loaned to students who do not have an appropriate signed/completed ‘Laptop User Charter.

Mr N Fernandez
Technical Support Officer
The Blakehurst High School SRC has made a great start to 2013. Our first major event was the sale of Zinc at our annual school swimming carnival. The sales were highly successful, totaling over $200.

We send out a BIG thank you to all the students and teachers who bought Zinc and stayed safe in the sun. We also thank all the SRC members who helped out on the day. Profit from the sales will go towards our Multicultural Day to take place in Term 3.

This year, the SRC has many exciting projects to look forward to. These include -

- Anti-bullying campaign,
- BBQ
- Fitness program
- Multicultural Day
- White Ribbon Day & more!

Behind the hard working SRC team of 2013 is a group of students who help to keep things in place and running smoothly: Our new Executives for 2013 are:

- **President** - Danielle Rossen - Year 10
- **Vice-President** - Naomi To - Year 10
- **Secretary** - Dylan McCuaig-Walton - Year 11
- **Publicity Officer** - Caitlin Su - Year 8
- **Technician** - Kirt Protacio - Year 11

And of course, our Coordinators for 2013: **Ms N Nozica and Mr R Wong**.

Thank you to all for supporting the SRC over the years. We hope to see that support continue.

...Naomi To
Vice President

Ms N Nozica & Mr R Wong
SRC Co–ordinators
News from

Mathematics Faculty….

Welcome to 2013!
We have been very impressed with the students’ energy displayed in class since the beginning of term. We are a large and enthusiastic faculty with eight full time staff, one part time and three teachers who have one class each (including both Deputy Principals).

We welcome Mr Rafik Dahouk as our new permanent member of staff and Mr Richard Wong as Mrs Louey’s replacement for the year. Both teachers have brought with them a wealth of teaching experience, enthusiasm and technological expertise. A huge Congratulations to Mrs Louey on the birth of her first child in January.

New calculators are in!
Calculators are frequently used in all courses from Years 7 to 12. You may use any scientific calculator that you wish (seniors need to check that it is approved by the Board of Studies for use in the HSC). If you have not yet purchased a calculator you can buy the very popular Casio FX-82AU-plus from school for just $22 (simply pay at the office and bring your receipt to the Maths staffroom).

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.

Term 1 Examinations
We are approaching exam times for all mathematics students. Every class will be given at least 2 weeks’ notice of the exact date and the topics to be examined.

Year 7 Week 7
Year 8 Week 7
Year 9 Week 10
Year 10 Week 8
Extension Mathematics Week 9
Year 11 General and Mathematics Week 8
Year 12 During the examination block in Weeks 9-11

We’re uploading to Moodle
Moodle is a tremendous resource for students (the login name and password is the same as for internet access, but at home the students login name is blakehurst-h.firstname.lastname).

We are progressively uploading weblinks, worksheets and other resources to all year groups. Those years with the DER laptop will find that they can access many resources electronically in class and are therefore reminded that they need to bring their laptop (fully charged) to school each day.

Competitions
Each calendar year there are many compulsory and optional tests and competitions that the students can participate in. These will include NAPLAN (compulsory for Years 7 and 9, don’t panic…), and several via the Australian Mathematics Trust (optional and for a small entry fee such as the Mathematics, Informatics or Statistics competitions).

We’ll give more information directly to students as each competition draws near.
Roll Up Your Sleeves
Blakehurst High!

We have booked 4 days for donating blood in Term 1, February 22, March 1, 7, & 8. It’s been brilliant to see the new students who are keen to donate, choosing their times early. As always we are after students aged 16+ (and there are more requirements posted outside the Maths staffroom).

In mid-March we have 3 Year 11 students attending the Red Cross Youth Ambassador program and expect them to return even more enthused towards saving lives. We’ll let you know how they went next Newsletter….

Well done Blakehurst High!

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics

Blakehurst High Open Night

Open Night is always a fun, relaxed evening where students, teachers and parents have a rare opportunity to view the schools facilities and faculty areas in a casual hands on manner. This year was no different with all attending enjoying themselves and learning a thing or two along the way.

The SRC students guided visiting Parents and students smoothly around the school to experience the rich tapestry that was showcased throughout key learning areas. I hear Science was a blast?

As always, the number of Blakehurst High staff present on the evening was high, therefore demonstrating the high level of commitment we have as a group to student learning and participation.

Thank you to all those who helped out and made the night a success. Special mentions to the SRC, School Captains and all Staff present and those involved behind the scenes for supporting the whole evening.

Ms Camilleri & Mr Roff
Year 7 Co-Advisers 2014
Welcome Back
A warm welcome back to school and Term 1 2013! I hope you have all had a restful break and have returned refreshed to begin another busy term.

This year, the TAS Home Economics Department warmly welcomes Ms Nicole Hawkins to our faculty. Ms Hawkins is an ex-Blakehurst High School student and has been a long standing casual teacher at Blakehurst High. She is currently teaching Year 9 Food Technology and Years 7 & 8 Technology Mandatory.

Senior Students
The term has been an extremely busy start for our senior students, in particular, our Year 12 Textiles and Design students who have been busy working on their Major Design Projects. Also our Year 12 CAFS students who have been busily working on their Independent Research Projects. We can’t wait to see the beautiful and creative designs from our Year 12 Textile students later on in the year. Mrs Allen and I are eager to read our Year 12 CAFS students first piece of academic research!

Café 2221
Our Year 12 Hospitality students have begun the year running the School’s Café on a weekly basis all term. This has been a very successful venture as it gives our students a taste of working in a Hospitality enterprise. A BIG thank you to all the staff who continue to support our Café every week!

In Term 4 last year the Café underwent a mini makeover, with some painting and the addition of an under shelf fridge and freezer. We’d like to thank Mr Mark Dexter, for painting our Café corner in Food Lab 2. Mark is an ex-Blakehurst High School student who generously donated his time to this project.

Junior Students
Our junior students have also been “busy bees” working hard across all our subjects and starting to produce a range of quality projects.

Fees 2013
Parents and Guardians are reminded that all materials and foods provided in practical classes are paid for via subject contributions. I would greatly appreciate if you could pay subject fees as soon as possible.

Correct Footwear and Practical Uniform
Parents, Guardians and students are reminded that leather lace-up non-slip shoes are required for participation in practical classes. If students are not in the correct footwear they will not be able to participate in the practical activity.

Students in Years 9-12 Food Technology are also reminded to bring their apron and hat as well as 2 tea-towels in a plastic bag, placemat (if required) and container for their practical classes.

Students in Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory – Food classes are also reminded to bring their tea-towel in a plastic bag, placemat (if required) and container for their practical classes.

Year 8 Technology Mandatory students must have a USB flash drive to work on their website.

I trust you all have a great Term and I take this opportunity to remind you of our school motto, ‘Nihil Sine Labore’, ‘Nothing Achieved Without Hard Work’. Hopefully this will be your motivation to do your very best this year.

Year 12 Food Technology Excursion
On Friday February 22, the Year 12 Food Technology students travelled to Taren Point to tour ‘Pactum Foods.’ This company manufactures and packages Soy milk, Almond milk, Rice milk as well as pre-mixed Stock for Coles, Woolworths and ALDI stores all over Australia. Year 12 Food Technology students are studying a unit on ‘Food Manufacture,’ so visualising what we have been studying was extremely beneficial.

The milk is delivered in powder form and checked through strict quality control procedures prior to mixing, filtering and heat treatment.
The UHT milk is heated as it passes through a pipe system at 140°C for only 5 seconds. After this treatment, the milk is cooled and then packaged.

The packaging process is simply amazing, fast automated processes take the flat carton through a machine where it is curled and sealed before the milk is added. The cartons are then sealed and shaped before they are boxed and stored.

The milk is checked every 15 minutes for microbial activity and machinery is checked from the Quality Control room where a computerised system is able to pick up if the temperature of the milk is too low. If the temperature is too low, the product is at risk of contamination. **Pactum Foods** pays particular attention to quality control. The health and safety of the consumer is of utmost importance.

We would like to thank Andrew Ngo from **Pactum Foods** who extended the One hour tour, to TWO hours for us. Year 12 Food Technology students are a very inquisitive bunch!

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**Mrs Natalia Dexter**
Head Teacher TAS Home Economics
Welcome back to the new school year and a very special welcome to all of our new Year 7 students and parents.

"Me and My World"

All English classes have settled in very well and are engaged in their first unit for the term. It was a pleasure meeting many of our new parents at the recent Year 7 Parent Evening. Some of the questions raised were about Homework and Assessments. Year 7 students are completing the unit “Me and My World”. Part of the assessment is the completion of a Power Point presentation, then Speech & autobiography with a focus on culture, values, attitudes and beliefs.

All students have been given a schedule of the course outline and assessments for the year. Reading for the Premier’s Reading Challenge is part of the English Program and students are to read every night for at least 20 minutes as part of their ongoing homework.

News from the Debating Coordinator

Debating at Blakehurst High School has ‘upped’ its game. We now have four teams representing our school in a range of competitions, including Years 8, 9 and 11.

Our New Year 7 Team...

...has recently been formed through grueling auditions of argumentation and refutation. We also welcome new coaches in debating this year: Janelle Lyons, Bill Catopodis and Sophia Shaw.

Our Senior Debating team...

This team has launched enthusiastically into the year by competing in the Macquarie University Senior Schools Cup which was held on Wednesday February 20.

It was nearly a 13 hour day for us; travelling to and from the University in peak hour traffic, but it was well worth the effort. Our students, Alexander Woof, Ayesha Nhem, Jasmin Huang and Rebecca Luhur won 2 out of their 3 debates. They competed against all private schools on topics relating to serious social issues.

We stayed to watch the finals, being the only team who wasn’t actually competing to do so, and thoroughly enjoyed the fierce debate that ensued. Our students gained even further insight into what qualifies as exceptional debating.

We can be proud of how our students conducted themselves and on how they sought out the Adjudicators after each debate to gain valuable feedback on their performance, strategies and skills. The students also showed the exceptional ‘good sportsmanship’ qualities that we are proud of in all our students who compete against other schools in a variety of competitions, sporting and intellectual alike. After each debate they also connected with the other team by congratulating them on their performance and finding positive things to say, no matter what the outcome of the debate.

Well done Senior Debaters and Good luck to all our teams throughout the year!

...Ms N Nozica
Debating Co-ordinator

Mrs J Hinson
Head Teacher English
Transition Adviser’s REPORT

We have been busy helping 15 of our Year 10 students confirm their positions and subsequently settle into their Stage 5 VET course at a variety of colleges around the Sydney region.

We would like to congratulate all these students for gaining a position and for their enthusiasm in ‘kick starting’ their careers. Unfortunately there were as many other applicants from Blakehurst High School who were not successful, but we will keep an eye out for other opportunities for them and for any others who let the Transition and/or Careers Advisors know what they would like to investigate in terms of possible career options.

Some of our students travel as far as Petersham and Randwick and are to be commended for their mature and responsible attitude. They have also committed to catching up on any school work they miss due to their attendance at TAFE, so we would also like to acknowledge both their teachers and their parents/carers for encouraging and supporting our students.

It is that time when many of our students who aren’t already involved in the work force are looking for part time employment. I am available to help students who need a resume or help applying for jobs, or who are looking to register with apprenticeship providers.

We look forward to a visit from our partner, Yamaha, who offers a visit to their headquarters to participate in the Young Mechanics grand Prix with a couple of other local High Schools. The also help us to connect with some local businesses who offer some Work Experience opportunities for highly motivated students. Students will be kept informed as these opportunities come up. Again we thank CBCC for their work in making this partnership productive.

News from the LIBRARY

- Premier’s Reading Challenge has started again for Years 7, 8 & 9. Don’t forget to keep a log of the books you have read since the start of the year. You will be able to register online next month.
- Don’t forget to register for our e-library on the Library page of Moodle.
Welcome back to all our students!
A very special welcome to all our new Year 7 students in 2013!

The CAPA team is once again looking forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning. I am very pleased to announce that we are once again offering our students the opportunity to participate in many co-curricular activities in the Creative And Performing Arts.

**MUSIC - Concert Band**
The Concert Band has begun rehearsals; being held on Mondays 3.00pm – 4.15pm. We are always looking for new players, experienced players and beginners! So if you have or are able to play a band instrument please see Ms Jacobsen or just come along to our rehearsals on Monday afternoons!

**STRING GROUPS - Beginner Strings**
The Beginners String Group will commence on Monday March 4 at lunchtime in Music Room 1.

**String Ensemble**
The senior group commenced rehearsals on Thursday February 28, 2013. All experienced string players are most welcome to join us. We have a new repertoire and will be practicing for our first Assembly performance early in Term 2.

**Choir**
The Choir has begun for 2013. We will rehearse every Friday at lunch in Music Room 1. Blakehurst High School Choir attended the first rehearsal for the ‘In Concert 2013’ performance to be held in May. The students thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal and we are looking forward to the challenge of learning the songs in preparation for the concert. The next regional rehearsal will be on Tuesday May 6. If you would like to join the choir, please see Ms Jacobsen in the CAPA staffroom.

We will also be preparing for the Expanding Horizons Gala Concert to be held at the Sydney Opera House later this year and we would love to have Blakehurst High School well represented for this ‘once in a lifetime opportunity’ of performing on the Opera House stage to a full house.

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

**VISUAL ARTS**
Mrs Kerrie Codey (formerly Ms Golding) has welcomed a new baby boy into her family! Baby Nate was born on January 9 2013. On behalf of the Blakehurst High School Community I would like to congratulate the Codey family.

Mr Jenkins has once again joined our amazing Visual Arts team.

**Drama**
On Wednesday February 6, 2013 our Year 12 Drama students travelled to the Seymour Centre for the 2013 On Stage Drama Showcase.

On Stage is the annual exhibition of exemplary drama performances from the previous HSC year, which allows current drama students to witness the dramatic works of their predecessors. The Individual and Group performances on show were wonderfully crafted and choreographed; all of which were a delight to watch.

Our talented drama students were eagerly dissecting the performances they had seen while on their train journey home. They now have a real thirst to begin crafting their own theatrical creations in preparation for this year’s HSC examination!

The girls should be commended for their exemplary behaviour in representing Blakehurst High School with pride. I look forward to witnessing their dramatic works in the coming months!

...Mrs Sophia Shaw
Drama Teacher

Mrs J Jacobsen
Head Teacher & CAPA Team
**LOTE Report**

As always the staff in the LOTE department is busy. To begin the year, the Chinese students celebrated Chinese New Year. In February the French students celebrated Mardi Gras with the traditional Crepes and cultural activities and the Greek students created Masks as did the Japanese students.

There has been little time to reflect on the excellent HSC results where over 90% of our Language students scored a Band 4 or higher. Congratulations Year 12 2012.

Since the beginning of term we have been organising a Cultural Exchange for students from Oita Tomei High School in Japan. Our students have generously agreed to host these young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved because without your generosity this activity could not take place and the benefit our own Japanese students attain is invaluable. The students will attend Blakehurst High School from March 4 to 12 when they will then return to Japan.

**Greek Scholarship**

The Language Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pan-Arcadian Association once again for their generous contribution towards our Modern Greek Scholarship for 2012.

The lucky and worthy recipient was Nicholetta Danas from Year 12, who achieved the result of 94% in Continuers Greek and 48% in Extension Greek. Nicholetta received a cheque of $1,000 which will go towards her tertiary education.

We are also very proud of our current Year 11 student, Stellios Kentzopoulos, who has been selected by an expert panel to be the recipient of the Denise Soos Scholarship to study the Modern Greek Beginners Course.

This is an initiative organised by the Modern Languages Teachers’ Association to promote the study of languages at the HSC level. Stellios received a cheque of $500 which will go towards school expenses.

**MORE great results for our Greek Language students!!**

Congratulations to our students in Modern Greek who sat for the Examination for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek in May last year. They all did extremely well and our school had 100% success in this examination!

The Certificate of Attainment in Greek is organised by the Centre for the Greek Language of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and it is the only officially recognised State Certificate for Greek as a second/foreign language. Hundreds of students take part in this examination every year in examination centers all over the world.

Once again congratulations to our students Mario Andreone, Martha Spillioti and Spiridoula Anogianakis who sat for level A2, and Nicholetta Danas who sat for B1. We are proud of all of you!

We anticipate great results from our students again this year. Examinations are between May 14 to 16 and registrations close at the end of March. The information package will be issued to the students.

If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Loizos at Blakehurst High School, 9546-3281.

......Ms T Loizos
Greek Teacher

**Mrs A Mangraviti**

Head Teacher LOTE
PDHPE Faculty - Report

Congratulations…
...to the class of 2012 on their creditable results in the HSC. In particular, Matthew Edenborough, with a HSC mark of 90 (Band 6) and Asher Coles, Jonathon Fermanis, Nicola White and Peter Zourdis all with Band 5’s.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Kym Rizzo Liu to the PDHPE team as a permanent member of staff. Kym brings with her many years of teaching experience and I am sure that she will add to the talents of the current members of the team.

Year 12…
...students are now approximately half way through the HSC course and it is imperative that they revise and study all course work regularly so that they are not overburdened nearing the end of the course as they prepare for the HSC. There are high expectations for this cohort in the HSC and it is hoped that all students work to their ability and attain the HSC results that they deserve.

Year 11…
Three 2 unit PDHPE classes are running in Year 11 consisting of 56 students. These classes are being taught by Mr Smith, Ms Berrett and Mrs Rizzo Liu. The Preliminary course is the basis and a very important component of presumed knowledge for the HSC course and it is essential that all students complete the work to the best of their ability. Year 11 will also participate in an Outdoor Recreation Camp later this year. More information will be circulated closer to the event.

One Sports Coaching class and one Sport Lifestyle and Recreation class are also being taught. Mr Kemp, after having completed his Certificate II and Certificate IV training, is delivering the Sport Coaching course whilst I am teaching the SLR students.

Years 7-10
In Year 7 to 10 Personal Development and Health course, all students are taught relevant and meaningful information on the lifestyle issues that they will face as they grow into young adults. The major outcome of this is that all students gain the ability to act on this information to make informed and healthy decisions for the present and into the future. To achieve these outcomes all PDHPE programs have been evaluated and re-written with the latest and most relevant information. Technology, lesson differentiation and student centred approaches have been utilised in all stages to ensure that all students gain the most benefit from their PDHPE courses.

I would like to thank the whole PDHPE team for the time and effort that they have put in to making these programs so engaging and informative for our students. Physical Education lessons in Term 1 will include fitness testing, gymnastics, dance and some sports. It is very important that all students bring their school sports uniform for practical lessons.

Yours in Sport

Mr T Yelavich
Head Teacher & PDHPE Team

All students have noted down their practical lesson periods on their timetables. A “2 strike” system will operate with students who fail to bring their PE uniforms more than once. They will be required to complete lunchtime detentions to make up for the missed lesson time.

All Year 7 to 10 students have also received a permission note explaining the PDHPE courses. A tear off return section, which gives permission for students to walk to parks outside school for PE lessons, needs to be sighted, signed and returned to the class teacher.

The Scope and Sequence of learning is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Theory</th>
<th>Practical</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Risks, Choices and Taking Action</td>
<td>Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Hockey, Netball and Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Creating Respectful Relationships</td>
<td>Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Hockey, Netball and Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Growing and Changing</td>
<td>Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Dance, Volleyball and Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>New Environments, New Challenges</td>
<td>Gymnastics, Fitness Testing, Dance, Cricket, Basketball and Cross Country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Year 9/10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies
This course is an extension of PDHPE lessons but targets areas such as, anatomy and biomechanics to help in understanding how the body works in physical activity. It will also give students an opportunity to experience various leisure activities such as tennis, canoeing and surf lifesaving. Two classes are running in each of these years.
PDHPE Sports – Report

Summer sport has commenced for 2013 with grade trials being held within the first four weeks of school, with the official start of St George Zone Sport beginning on Wednesday 27th February.

We have 38 boys teams and 28 girls teams contesting the Summer Grade Sport competition this year, and as the current Girls Grade Sport Champion School, we are looking at retaining this trophy and adding to it with the Boys Grade Sport Champion School. This is an increase of 10% of students choosing a grade sport compared to 2012 so I’d like to thank all students for choosing a grade sport and wish them all the best for the summer season.

Blakehurst High School Sports Houses

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

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<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Patron</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>V Captains</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREEMAN</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Ms Berrett</td>
<td>H Brandon</td>
<td>N Drasalivas S Antoniou R Blatch-Williams</td>
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<td>J Glavincevski</td>
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<td>P Koutsoukos</td>
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<td>R Gray-Schwarz</td>
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<td>D Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAINSFD</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Mr Kemp</td>
<td>J Glavincevski</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>P Koutsoukos</td>
<td>R Gray-Schwarz</td>
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<td>D Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERKINS</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Ms Rizzo Liu</td>
<td>S Michels B Pilot</td>
<td>M Pavlovski G Melas J Nancarrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAUVAGE</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Mr Tsattalios</td>
<td>M Soliman M Wu</td>
<td>R Trajevski S Wood</td>
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</tbody>
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We wish all the houses the best of luck at the swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals where students are encouraged to compete in as many events as they like and support their house by wearing their house colours.

Blakehurst High School Swimming Carnival

The first school carnival of the year was the Swimming Carnival which was conducted at Carss Park Swimming Pool on Friday 15th February. The weather was kind with the sun shining from midday throughout the afternoon and with plenty of action in the water, the racing was fierce and fast. Congratulations must go to all students who behaved and participated to an exceptionally high standard throughout the day. Sauvage House Patron Mr Tsattalios along with the House Captains must be congratulated for being crowned Champion Swim House after amassing 645 points to edge out Freeman, followed by Gainsford and Perkins. Sauvage’s strength was highlighted by convincingly winning the Inaugural Teacher vs Student 8 x 50m freestyle relay and it was a big improvement after coming third in last year’s carnival. Congratulations Sauvage.

Congratulations to the Swimming Age Champions of 2013. Male and Female as follows:

- Jade Campbell & Matthew Lee – 12 Years
- Eelyn Mohd Anis & Max Poulter – 13 Years
- Sheridan Smith & Assadi Yousef – 14 Years
- Julia Glavincevski & Dennis Alima – 15 Years
- Rebecca Gray-Schwarz, Chadwick Aryana – 16 Years
- Martha Spilioti & Alex Chen – 17+ Years

The following students must also be recognised for setting new swimming records as follows:

- Sheridan Smith – 14 Yrs 50m Butterfly – 32.00sec
  14 Yrs 50m Backstroke – 35.59 sec
  14 Yrs 50m Breaststroke – 36.87 sec
- Max Poulter – 13 Yrs 50m Butterfly – 31.41 sec
  13 Yrs 50m Backstroke – 35.75 sec
  13 Yrs 50m Breaststroke – 41.03 sec
  13 Yrs 50m Freestyle – 29.03sec

Good luck to all those students who will be representing Blakehurst High School at the St George Zone Swimming Carnival at the Bexley Pool, on Monday February 25 and Friday March 1.

Sporting results outside school

Congratulations to Sheridan Smith Year 9, Julia Glavincevski Year 10 and Martha Spilioti Year 11, who performed exceptionally well over the Christmas holidays at the New South Wales State Age Swimming Championships by swimming personal bests and winning numerous medals.

Congratulations also to Mika Zammit Year 11 who has been recently selected to represent Sydney East at the New South Wales State Age Swimming Championships.

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


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