From the Principal

Anzac Day Ceremony
The school had a very successful Anzac Day ceremony on Thursday the 2nd of May. Congratulations to the Year 9 students – Jana Atanasova, Sophie Ward, Miles Carter, April McLeod and Madelaine Allen - who planned and ran both the junior and senior assemblies on this day. As is traditional, the South Hurstville RSL Branch donated money ($500 in 2013 up from $300) for student Anzac Day awards. This year's winners were:

1. **2013 Peace Prize** - This award is in recognition of the outstanding contributions by one student who has shown ongoing commitment to maintaining peace and school spirit. Wendy Wang, current member of the Senior Prefects, received this award at the ceremony for her constant and ongoing involvement in all aspects of school. Well done Wendy!

2. **Anzac Day Essay Writing Competition** – A number of Year 9 students participated in an essay writing competition with a central theme 'Should the Role of the ADF Extend Beyond Armed Conflict in Afghanistan'. The prize winners were:
   - 1st Place – Jack McDonnell
   - 2nd Place – Richard He
   - 3rd Place – Zachary Khamhing

A Busy Term So Far!
This term has certainly started with a bang. So far we have had our Anzac Day ceremony; two Parent and Teacher Evenings and a P&C Meeting. Not to mention numerous Assessment Tasks, including NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9; Excursions and Sporting events. Thanks to all parents who attended these events and for your ongoing support of the school and staff. Without a supportive school community we would not be able to achieve all the things we do throughout the school year.

NAPLAN
Years 7 and 9 sat for the 2013 NAPLAN exams between the 14th and the 17th of May. The results of these exams will be posted to parents late in Term 3. Thanks to Ms Alison Peachy for her co-ordination of the NAPLAN exams this year.

P&C Meetings
Our next P&C meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday the 12th of June in the Staff Common Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

School Fees
Thanks to the many families who have already paid their school fees for 2013. These fees assist greatly in the running of the school, and all fees received are used to enhance your child's education this year.

General contributions are used to pay for things such as photocopying, textbooks, teaching resources, library books etc. The school would simply not have enough money to pay for all of these things without parents paying the General Contribution. So again, thank you.

Subject fees vary in their amount based on the amount of consumables used in the teaching of the subject. As a result, some subjects have NO fees but others such as Visual Arts, Woodwork, Construction, Food Tech etc. have higher fees due to the resources/consumables required and used by the students undertaking these subjects.

The P&C Student Enhancement Fee is used by the P&C to fund worthwhile educational projects/resources around the school, again to improve the educational outcomes of students this year.

In 2012 the P&C funded over $50000 worth of projects which included the funding of the SMS Attendance System; the online Study Skills resource; Sound System for the Hall; Science resources; Technology for Visual Arts and the Transition Adviser; Software for Mathematics to name but a few.

It would be great then, if all outstanding fees could be finalised this term, as we could allocate it effectively to further enhance your child's education this year. If you have trouble in paying your fees please feel free to contact Kim Morris (Office Manager) or myself to organise payment in instalments or to discuss other arrangements. All information provided will be held in confidence.
STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR MAY: Improving Handwriting

To improve your handwriting, you need to first assess how healthy you are in the four elements of legible handwriting: letter formation, sizing, alignment on the line and spacing between words. Then use the steps below to start to improve your handwriting:

- **FIND BEST PEN:** Experiment with different pens to see which is the easiest to write with and which one gives you the neatest handwriting. Use the same pen all the time.
- **GOOD GRIP:** Hold the pen/pencil gently and do not grip too tightly or push too hard on the paper.
- **USE ARM MUSCLES:** Always write with your forearm and shoulder NOT with your fingers or wrist. This way your strokes will flow much better. It may take you some time to retrain your arm and hand but be aware of these movements when you practice. The muscles in your forearm and shoulder tire less easily than your fingers.
- **BEGIN WITH LARGE STROKES:** Practice initially on a whiteboard (or even tracing letters in the air) using large strokes until you feel comfortable with using your forearm and shoulder muscles. When you feel you have conquered this, it is time to begin practicing on paper. Keep using large strokes, gradually reducing them in size as your control of the muscles increases. Once you have accomplished this it is time to begin practicing in your exercise book forming normal sized letters.
- **POSTURE:** Ensure you practice your handwriting skills at a desk or table. Sit up straight using a good chair.
- **RULED LINED BOOK:** Buy a ruled exercise book (like a primary cursive pad) for practice use. Always write on lined paper and take note of how you are writing and how your work looks on the page.
- **COPY STYLE:** Look for an example of a handwriting style that you like and can use to copy from. Keep this in front of you at all times to inspire you towards improving your style.
- **INDIVIDUAL LETTERS:** Begin with individual letters and practice writing at least one letter per day concentrating on the four elements of legible handwriting.
- **WHOLE WORDS:** Once you have worked your way through individual letters in the alphabet practice writing whole words. Be aware of the flow from one letter to the next as well as spacing between each word.
- **TEST SENTENCE:** Choose a test sentence for yourself and write it at the top of your first practice page. Each week write this sentence at the top of a new page to check for improvement in your writing.
- **SPECIAL SENTENCE:** Frequently practice writing the sentence ‘the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog’ in small and capital letters. This sentence contains all the letters in the alphabet and gives you good overall practice of each letter.
- **WRITE SLOWLY:** Write slowly when practicing.
- **REALISTIC GOALS:** Don’t set impractical goals for improvement. Improvement will take time and is a matter for persistence – it all comes down to practice, practice and then more practice!

Once your handwriting style has improved, you can then focus on improving the speed of your handwriting. Every day, practice writing at speed. Choose a particular passage and write it out neatly. Time yourself. The next day, write it out neatly again but try and speed up a bit and time yourself again. The goal is to get to the point where you can write the passage out quickly but still maintain neat handwriting. Doing this for just 5 minutes every day will really help you to improve your handwriting. If your cursive (running) writing is really bad, you may find it easier to learn to print really fast in exams rather than focus on improving your cursive style.

You can also try writing with a pen that is weighted on the end to build up the muscles in your hand used for writing. When you get to the exams take the weight off the end and feel the benefits of a lighter pen! For people with serious handwriting issues, check out this amazing pen: www.ringpen.com.

Learn more useful tips to help you achieve your personal best at school at the Study Skills Handbook website. Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -

User name: blakehursths
Password: 186results
Weekly Scheduling
Learning how to make time for homework, study, chores, part-time jobs and so on is a vital skill for all kids, but it's one that we need to teach them by example. It's just a Word document, but you can now create your own weekly schedules to whip your family into shape.

Exceptional Kids
Would you rather your child have a high I.Q or a never-give-up attitude? Michael Grose looks at the research
Find out more: http://parentingideas.com.au/Blog/April-2013-%281%29/Intelligence-or-persistence--which-would-you-choos

Bouncing Back
Does your child bounce back from disappointment, or do they need to learn to be more resilient - and how do you teach them, so they can deal with life’s challenges? Watch the video.

Australian Curriculum Guide for Parents.
A valuable link for parents to view the New NSW K-10 Syllabus

Mr B Lester
Principal
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S Report

School Uniforms
The overwhelming majority of our students are in full uniform every day and look and act as good ambassadors for our school. Students are very visible in the community so we often remind them to behave appropriately as they are easily identified. Whether you agree with school uniforms or not, our school community, which is all of us, has consistently supported Blakehurst as a *uniform school*. There will always be some students who don’t do the right thing but “everybody” does not wear tights/joggers/beanies/canvas shoes/etc. Please encourage and support your child to wear correct uniform at all times.

Now that the cooler weather has come, some students have started to wear the **incorrect uniform**. Head Teachers and Year Advisers **will not accept** incorrect uniform. Coloured jumpers, other jackets and “hoodies” are not an acceptable part of our school uniform. The warmer black jackets are now available from Lowes. Please make sure your student has appropriate warm clothing.

Procedures for students out of uniform are as follows:

- If there is an exceptional reason for a student not to be in full uniform then we expect that the student will present a note from their parent to the Year Adviser before rollcall. The Year Adviser will then issue a Uniform Pass.

- A student who attends roll call without full uniform, or a note, will be spoken to by the Head Teacher in charge of that year. In the case of an incorrect jumper being worn, the jumper will be confiscated and the student offered a clean, second hand school jumper from the clothing pool. When the school jumper is washed and returned, the student’s jumper will also be returned at the end of a school day.

Sports Uniforms
Tights are not, and have never been, part of the sport uniform for girls. Last year, we organised a better cut of shorts for girls and the original shorts or plain black track pants are also acceptable alternatives. Lowes, at Hurstville, has a full size range of plain black track pants and their stock is replenished each week.

Shoes
School shoes are a recurring problem for some students. All students need to be wearing black, leather, lace-up shoes. Black canvas shoes **are not uniform** and do not provide the protection that is required by law in specialist areas.

Student Attendance
Everyone finds it harder to get out of bed in winter. Years 11 and 12 students need to be in class at 7:45am for Period 0. Students who miss these lessons can be missing up to 25% of their timetabled lessons. Students must be present for 90 to 95% of lesson time to be successful.

Junior students need to ensure that they arrive in time to attend rollcall, at 8:55am, which means they need to be on the premises by 8:45am.

Please encourage your child to get up at a reasonable time so that they can arrive on time by encouraging a reasonable bed time. All teenagers need to get sufficient sleep. Research varies, but all agree that teenagers need 8 to 9 hours a night. In particular:

- Sleep has a critical role in memory consolidation which is critical to learning.
- Sleep loss increases the level of the stress hormone, cortisol, resulting in impulsive behaviors, lack of empathy, sense of humor, and mood swings.
- Sleep loss is associated with metabolic changes. For example, blood-glucose levels can be affected and, after only four hours sleep on six consecutive nights, insulin levels are comparable to the early stages of diabetes.

Many of our students are regularly sleep deprived. By encouraging your child to get sufficient sleep, you are also supporting them to become more healthy and successful students.

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

......Each year NSW Health Units offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based program. If you have any medical queries re the vaccinations, please contact the Public Health Unit on 9362 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.

Mrs J Smith
Welfare Coordinator
From the CAREERS Adviser

Parent Information Evening at the University of Notre Dame
104 Broadway.
June 18, 2013 6pm
Do you have a son or daughter in Years 10, 11 or 12? Attend the Notre Dame Parent Information Evening to find out more about the University; speak to current students; meet academic staff and find out about our uniquely holistic admissions system. For further information or to RSVP, visit www.nd.edu.au/events/parents-information-sessions

Year 10 Students and Parents

Earn While You Learn

2014 SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 12 June 2013
7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Kareela Golf Club, Bates Drive, KAREELA
Light supper provided.

- Get a head start in your career
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships combine paid work with training
- Trainees complete traineeship concurrently with Higher School Certificate (HSC)
- Apprentices complete first year of the apprenticeship concurrently with the HSC
- Apprentices and trainees work part time while studying for their HSC
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships in schools provide senior secondary students with multiple qualifications and a year’s head start in their career
- It is possible to get an ATAR with some SBATS

For further information:
Contact your School Careers Adviser or a Sydney Region SBAT Coordinator;
Ada Mackay - 9582 2816 – ada.mackay@det.nsw.edu.au or
Kay Smith – 9582 2811 – elizabeth.k.smith@det.nsw.edu.au
Check out the website
www.sbatinns.w.info

If you are an EMPLOYER, consider employing a secondary student under the School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship program (Financial incentives available).
Scholarships Information Evening

Date: Thursday 6th June
Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm
Venue: Science Theatre
Kensington Campus
Registration: whatson.unsw.edu.au

The Scholarships Information Evening provides greater depth and detail on the range of scholarships at UNSW, with a focus on the application process and answering specific questions. The evening is aimed at year 11 and 12 students and their parents.

The evening will consist of a general introduction to UNSW scholarships and the Co-op Program, as well as information time for one-on-one discussions about specific scholarships.

To make the most of the evening be sure to have a look at the Scholarships and Co-op Program websites before attending:

UNSW Scholarships Office
p: 02 9385 1078
e: scholarships@unsw.edu.au
www.scholarships.unsw.edu.au

UNSW Co-op Program
p: 02 9385 5116
e: coopprog@unsw.edu.au
www.co-op.unsw.edu.au

Register your attendance at the What’s On home page and select the event.

Click HERE for a Map of the University. The Science Theatre is at coordinate F13.
News from SCIENCE

Spelling Lists

All students in Years 7 to 10 are issued with workbooks for each topic, in their study of Science. On the first page of these books, a list of scientific words is listed, relating to the topic. Students are spelling-tested on five of these words at least once a week. They are also directed to find the scientific meaning of each word, so that a ‘Glossary of Terms’ is built up over the year.

An example of the Year 9 topic, Staying Alive is listed below;

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>REWRITE</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chromosome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>meiosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>mitosis</td>
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<td>pregnancy</td>
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<td>vas deferens</td>
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<td>ejaculation</td>
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<td>impotence</td>
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<td>castration</td>
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<td>prostate</td>
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<td>gestation</td>
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<td>contraception</td>
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<td>fertility</td>
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<td>menstruation</td>
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<tr>
<td>syphilis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Parent/Teacher Nights**

The Science Department would like to thank all parents and caregivers who took time out to meet teachers on the two Parent Teacher night held earlier in the term. These sessions provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss student progress in detail, and the faculty believes that all parties benefit from teachers and parents getting together. Any parents who missed these nights are invited to call Ms O’Brien in the Science Staffroom so that a phone interview can be arranged.

**Year 7**

Year 7 are well underway with their study of the topic “Exploring Living Things”, and many students have reported that they are looking forward to the field trip to Wildlife World and Sydney Aquarium at Darling Harbour in August. This excursion will afford students the opportunity to see, and sometimes touch, real life examples of Australian animals. Mrs Ware (7B teacher) is currently investigating Year 7 participation in the Living Egg Program. Living Eggs provides life cycle education programs that enable children to see chicks hatching from their eggs. Living Eggs commenced in 1995 in Australia giving children the opportunity to experience the miracle of life first hand, and allowing teachers to extend Life Cycle studies.

**Year 11 Chemistry**

Students in Year 11 Chemistry are enjoying their study of metals and the ‘mole’ concept this term. One of their first-hand experiences involved finding, experimentally, the empirical formula of magnesium oxide. Students of all ages love burning magnesium because of the bright white flame it produces. This year’s students were no exception!

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**Mrs L O’Brien**  
Head Teacher Science
News from Mathematics Faculty….

We still want your textbooks!
If you also have a previous years’ textbook at home we would love to see it come back, no questions asked. Drop it in to the Maths staffroom, anytime.

Reminder: your child always has work to do on www.mathletics.com.au
No homework? ALL students from Years 7 – 12 have a login and password for Mathletics. Your child’s teacher will periodically set homework tasks that need to be completed, but more often it is intended that the students use the program as a revision tool, choosing the topics they wish to work on. If you would like your child’s username and password please contact us at: blakehurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Attention: Maths Head Teacher and we’ll email it back to you.

Would you like more online revision?
Last newsletter we asked if you would like discounted availability ($20 instead of $200) to Maths Online, an online program which has an audio and video component that explains concepts to students (great for if they missed a class or want to go over a topic again). We had a small student response and need 50+ to get the lower price. We realise that many students may not have told their teacher that they want access, so please email us (attention: Maths HT) by 7 June and we’ll let you know if it will go ahead.

Term 2 Examinations
At the time of this Newsletter going to print the following Term 2 exams were still to occur:

Year 9: Wednesday 12 June - Separate exams for 9M1/M2, M3/M4 and M5/M6
Year 10: Monday 3 June - Separate exams for 10M1/M2, M3/M4 and M5/M6
Year 11 Thursday 6 June - General and Mathematics
Year 11 Tuesday 11 June - Extension 1
Year 12 Wednesday 12 June - Applied, General and Mathematics
Year 12 Monday 17 June - Extension 1
Year 12 Friday 7 June - Extension 2

www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au
This website has a wealth of excellent, practical help for parents and students. Have a browse and find tips on organising your time with a weekly schedule. We in Maths are particularly taken with the audio from ABC Maths guru Adam Spencer talking with James O’Loghlin. Listen to the audio and read more. The Maths sections are also great, as are sections for other subjects.


Roll Up Your Sleeves, Blakehurst!
We have booked 3 days for donating blood in Term 2 June 11, 12, & 13, which is in Week 7B, straight after the long weekend. If you have turned 16 years in the last few months you are now eligible to donate!! See Mrs Peachey in the Maths Staffroom to book your appointment time.

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics
What a Busy Term...
...this is turning out to be! All our students have been hard at work over the past 5 weeks planning, designing and producing wonderful and creative design projects.

Year 7 & 8 Technology Mandatory
Our Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory students have swapped classes this term and have been busy learning new skills in the areas of Textiles Technologies or Food Technologies.

Year 11 Hospitality Work Placements – Where theory is put into practise!
In Week 3 and 4 of Term 2, the Year 11 Hospitality class has undertaken their work placements at various venues around Sydney. We have had students at Sul Ponte Café and Miami Ice Hurstville, Roca Café Brighton Le Sands, The Tattersalls Club and Janus Café in the City as well as students on placement with Fusion Cruises on Sydney Harbour.

All the students have had a wonderful time and gained valuable experience and knowledge of the Hospitality Industry. Thank you to those businesses who have taken on the responsibility to guide and train our students.

New Sign for Café 2234
This Term, Café 2234 has been using the “old” school sign the P & C bought our school a few years ago as a way of advertising what delicious treats we have on sale when we run the café. We absolutely love our fabulous sign.

Mrs N Dexter
Head Teacher Home Economics (Rel)
Enviroforum Taronga Zoo 2013

On the 8th of April, four members from the Environmental Team attended an Environmental Youth Forum held at Taronga Zoo. A variety of people spoke throughout the day about how we can care for the Environment and we even saw a Seal show! The first speaker of the day, James Arvantakis, talked to us about his experiences travelling in South America and the importance of Fair Trade. Fair Trade is an organised social movement and market-based approach that aims to help producers in developing countries obtain better trading conditions and promotes sustainability. Cadbury aims for all their chocolate to be fair trade by 2015!

We also watched some PowerPoint presentations from other schools about their environmental activities. Some schools have their own farms! The Environmental Team hopes to have a herb garden started by the end of this year. After watching the presentations we participated in workshops run by YATZ (Youth at the Zoo). The workshops aimed to help us get involved in our school community. We discussed what a leader is and what a leader does. By using our leadership qualities, we can help the school to be a more Environmentally friendly place. After finishing the workshop we sat down for lunch and watched the Seal show.

The last speaker, Costa Georgiadis, was very inspiring. He talked about living off the land and growing your own food. He even brought his chicken in to show us! He encouraged us to change the way people think. By removing the word ‘garbage’ we can look at what we are throwing out differently. Rather than thinking of it as garbage, think of it as a resource that can be used for another purpose. Overall the day was very successful. We have many new thoughts and ideas that we hope to put into action in the future.

Carss Park Community Garden Open Day 2013

On the 11th of May, Carss Park Community Garden held their annual open day. A photo competition was held with the theme ‘My Secret Garden’. Two students from Blakehurst High School entered. All entries were very impressive.

....Emma Schofield, Year 11
Rebecca Gray-Schwarz, Year 10
On route to the Zoo

Meeting some of the friendly residents at the Zoo

Students' exhibits at the Enviro forum. Examples of how to recycle household & personal items.
Round 'em up, hand 'em in.

Hand in your old mobile phones, charges and accessories at school to enter the draw to win a $100 JB Hi Fi gift card!

By recycling you will be:
- Avoiding future greenhouse gas emissions
- Saving energy
- Protecting our environment
- Conserving scarce natural resources

Ms J Camilleri
Environmental Team Co-ordinator
Firstly, I would like to welcome Ms Kate Lambert to INTERACT@BHS. Ms Lambert will be providing leadership for the projects and will be sharing the co-ordinators role with me.

We have had a quiet start to the year but that is all about to change! This term we kick off two projects – The Sydney Dogs and Cats Home Initiative with Ms Lambert and the ‘Wrap with Love’ initiative.

As always, we need the help of our whole school community.

Wrap with Love
The ‘Wrap with Love’ project is a World-Wide initiative which aims to provide knitted wraps to communities in developing countries where the extremely cold temperatures cause suffering. The organisation began in 1992 and we would like to support them!

How can you help?
We require donations of knitting needles or yarn (8 ply preferred but anything is welcome!) or monetary donations to assist with the purchase of these items.

Please drop off all items at the front office or alternatively, drop in to see me in the HSIE staffroom at any time.

As always, thank you for your support!!!

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

Support the cause and donate at:

James Roff
Science Department
News from the LIBRARY

Welcome!
I would like to warmly welcome Mrs Anne Larson to the Library staff at Blakehurst High School. She will be working Thursday and Friday as Teacher/Librarian for the rest of 2013. Mrs Larson has worked in school libraries for over 20 years and brings much knowledge and experience to our library.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 all work towards completing the PRC each year. Students should be about halfway (ie have read 10 books) as the Challenge closes at the end of August. Please check that students have registered books they have read on-line.

Congratulations...
...to the following students who have recently completed the Challenge:
Year 7  Sally Ibrahim
Year 8  Sandy Ng
Year 9  Kathleen Nguyen

Remember...
...Reading is exercise for the Brain. Come up to the Library and let us help you find a book you will enjoy!

HSC Support
Kogarah Library is holding FREE HSC seminars in June and July. The seminars are delivered by senior education specialists and are specifically designed to prepare students for effective exam performance. See flyer towards the end of this Newsletter.
On Saturday May 11, Year 11 Legal and Geography students, Mustafa Shams, Karen Poon and I took part in a very special day-long program, graciously sponsored by our local Kogarah Rotary Club.

The event was the Model United Nations Assembly, or MUNA for short and comprised of different schools from all over Sydney and the Illawarra district; each representing a United Nations Country. Blakehurst High had been selected to represent the Republic of South Africa and with this, each member from each team was to debate from their country’s perspective on current world issues.

Prior to the outing, many arduous hours were spent researching and preparing our speeches and notes on our topics.

- Resolution 1 - Seeking a Global Taboo on Nuclear Weapons
- Resolution 2 - In Relation to People Smuggling in Each Team’s Country

Along with preparing notes, costumes were also a big deal. Blakehurst students wore Dashikis and a grass skirt; Japan wore kimonos, Germany dressed in suspenders and corduroy shorts and North Korea were in military jackets.

In all, the experience was priceless; from the venue - Nan Tien Temple, Berkeley, where the event took place, to the friendships that were made, the perspectives we learned from different countries on the topics and most importantly, confidence in public speaking and debating in front of a crowd of approximately 100 people. Despite Blakehurst High not attaining a place on the podium; the experience and skills gained from the day far overshadowed this.

On the behalf of Blakehurst High, we would like to strongly thank the President of the Kogarah Rotary Club Mr Paul Bateman OAM and Mrs Maricic for their cooperation and support in the lead up to and on the day of MUNA. Thank you also goes to Cecilia Wong for her help in research and Bryan Pan for the design and production of the Zulu Shield.

.... Adam Craig
Year 11

Mr P Slater
Head Teacher/HSIE
Term 2 has had a very busy start for the CAPA team!  
So much news to tell!!

**Choir**

The Choir proudly represented our school at the ‘In-Concert 2013’ choral performance at the Sydney Town Hall on Monday 13 May. We rehearsed during the day and the performance began at 7.00pm. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were outstanding ambassadors for our school. The repertoire included the Mozart Requiem, Porgy and Bess Medley, conducted by the esteemed Brett Weymark, and The Wanderer and You, Me and the Wide Open Sky by Dan Walker, conducted by Liz Scott. The repertoire was challenging but beautifully performed by the combined choir. I am very pleased to provide a link to a video of the performance. I do hope you enjoy it. [Mozart Requiem]

The Choir also attended the first of three rehearsals for the Expanding Horizons Gala Concert which will be held at the Opera House on 19 August 2013. Rehearsals for the choir are held each Friday morning at 8.00am in Music Room 1. If you would like to join us, just come along – you will be most welcome.

**Music Night 2013**

Blakehurst Highs performance ‘night of nights’ once again went off without a hitch!! I would like to personally express my thanks and congratulate all performers for their outstanding effort in presenting a polished concert performance. I must also thank our fantastic compere – Kyle Stein. He did a superb job introducing the acts, and managed to entertain the audience as well with his quick humour. Well done Kyle!

An event such as Music Night doesn’t just happen – it is a lot of practice and hard work over a long period of time, and the unfailing support and encouragement of all BHS staff. Thank you to all the staff who supported us on the night and to all the staff who supported and encouraged our students throughout the journey, allowing them out of class to rehearse and perfect their acts. Also of course, a huge thank you to Mr Lester, Mr Ovens, Mrs Paton and the front office staff, who were ‘entertained’ every day for the last couple of weeks before the show.

The stage crew was equally amazing! They managed to keep the show rolling smoothly, changing all the sets and equipment, microphones etc in a timely manner, and with a minimum of fuss. We were also very privileged to have the expert filming services of Cameron Gaubert (and his crew) and Mr Jenkins, who have given us a collection of still photographs of the event and recording of the whole show. We will keep you posted about the availability of a DVD.

Music Night provides fantastic experience and opportunity for our students and hopefully will encourage more performances on a regular basis from all our talented students. Congratulations to everyone for a fantastic job!!

On another congratulatory note! I am delighted to share with you the news about a very talented Year 7 student – Howard Ling – who plays saxophone and piano. Howard has been selected to participate in the 2013 Regional Music Camp. This also means that Howard will now be part of the Regional Concert Band and will perform at one of the Music Festivals to be held at the Sydney Opera House in August, and as well, will be part of the Schools Spectacular concert at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in November. Congratulations Howard!

**Drama**

It has certainly been a very exciting term for our Drama students! The Blakehurst High School Drama Club welcomes students from Years 7, 8, & 9 and meets each Thursday during lunchtime in the Drama Room. This term, we have started reading Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet and our cast will be performing the script in the coming weeks. Our regular members have enjoyed the opportunity to partake in the theatre sports and activities on offer, so why not come along to our meetings for a chance to be involved in some fun!

Our Year 12 Drama class is currently in the process of crafting their Group Performance for the HSC Drama Examination later in the year. The girls are very eager to present our school with their final polished piece in the coming months. We are sure that you will certainly enjoy their work!

…… Mrs Shaw  
Drama Teacher
“Visual Artists…”

“My artwork is about plastic surgery. How it “transforms” a person, and creates a fake image of “beauty”.

“Smartphone Addiction”

“My artwork is about the use of smartphones and how it has harmful effects on people. For example, how people have to check their phones every minute and losing their social communication skills.”
Year 10
Shadow and Letter Pictures
Visual Design Year 9
I don’t believe in the kind of magic in my book but I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.

J.K. Rowling
LOTE Report

Languages Day

Despite the weather, Languages Day went ahead last Friday. This was our 6th annual event. Once again the students thoroughly enjoyed the various activities such as Sumo Wrestling, the French Waiters Race, Ping Pong, Trivia, Greek Dancing and our traditional Calcio was replaced by Mask Making due to the inclement weather.

The students delighted in the food from the various countries. They were treated to gelato, pizza, crepes, sushi, souvlaki, and spring rolls. Huge thanks must go not only to the Languages staff but also our helpers in Years 9, 10 and 11 & 12 as well as our ex-students who came to help barbeque on the day. Our 2011 school Vice-Captain Antonio Atsas and Senior Prefect Nick Triantafyllis.

These days could not happen without the tremendous dedication of the Language teachers who worked tirelessly not only on the day but in the weeks before.
InterConnected Classroom

Year 11 Japanese students enjoyed their first Video Conferencing link with a Japanese class from Chitose Senior High school in Hokkaido.

Both classes presented a PowerPoint describing their school, and took turns speaking in Japanese and English. It was a fantastic opportunity to communicate together and is the beginning of what I’m sure will be a close relationship.

This was the feedback from Chitose after our first session.

“My students were very glad that they could know about your school and neighbourhood. They were very surprised that your students speak good Japanese. My students were very shy during the meeting, but they regretted their shyness.”

LEADERSHIP TEAM - Report

Video:
One major issue that the Leadership teams at Blakehurst High are trying to combat is bullying. A week before an anti-bullying initiative by the SRC, a video was brought to the attention of the Senior Prefect body. It contained a poem by Shane Koyczan called “To This Day.”

The video was about the effects of physical and psychological bullying long after the acts of bullying are complete, and urging those who are being bullied to stay strong.

After a viewing of this video, the students decided to present this video to both junior and senior students, hoping to get through to not only those who are being bullied, but those who are doing the actual bullying, in an attempt to show them what they are doing is not okay, and has an everlasting affect.

We can only hope the message is being received, and urge those who stand by or fall victim to speak up. We’re here to help and share the love!

To share the love this Valentine’s Day students and teachers were able to place an order for chocolate roses and pink roses to be delivered anonymously to the person of their choice. In total over 100 chocolate and pink roses were delivered. The money raised will go towards the Senior Prefects end of year gift to the school.
Swimming Carnival

Blakehurst High Schools Annual Swimming Carnival was held on the 15th of February at Carss Park Swimming Pool.

The day ran very successfully, despite the unpredictable weather, with numerous individual 50m records being broken.

As per tradition the Year 12 students’ dressed up; this year’s theme was to dress up as the first letter of your name, with some Year 12 students getting very creative!

Savage was titled the winning house of the day.

Jersey Day

In order to raise money for their end of year gift, the Senior Prefects held a jersey themed mufti day. The day was filled with team pride and cheer, with all codes of sport being represented.

In accordance with this event, the Senior Prefects also sold a delicious assortment of cupcakes which they had all made and presented beautifully on the day. The combination of this, and the donations by students, resulted in the senior leadership body raising $1200 towards their gift to the school.
PDHPE Faculty - Report

Year 12 2 Unit PDHPE…
…have recently completed their Half Yearly exams with some outstanding results. Congratulations to Rachel Roberts and Niki Exarhacos who were equal first in this exam. It is imperative that all students complete all Assessment Tasks to a high standard; to study their course notes and revise these to ensure that they achieve the best possible result in the HSC which is only two terms away.

Year 12 Sports Coaching students…
…are close to completing all competencies for this course although each student needs to also complete their 35 hour Work Placement before the end of Term 3. Students have recently completed a basketball coaching competency which all class members completed very well. Michael Veljanovski conducted an excellent coaching session in which all students were engaged and interested. Year 11 Sports Coaching are making good progress on their competencies. Mr Kemp is very happy with the effort and application that all students are showing.

Year 11 2 Unit PDHPE…
…is approximately half way through the Preliminary course. It is pleasing to have 3 classes comprising 56 students participating in this subject. All students are studying the fundamentals which are required to successfully complete the HSC. It is essential that all students work to the best of their ability and complete all class work and Assessments to have a strong grounding for the HSC course. Information and pictures of the Outdoor Education are published later in this magazine.

Years 9 and 10 PASS and Football classes…
… are working hard to achieve their respective outcomes. The Year 10 Football elective class will be participating in a Football Coaching/Refereeing Certificate in the coming weeks. A special mention also for David Hughes, a member of the Year 10 PASS class, who is now refereeing weekend Rugby League matches in the St George Junior League after completing his refereeing course last term.

Years 7 to 10…
… have completed their Cross Country and Athletics units in Physical Education lessons in preparation for the school carnivals. All students will gain experience in each athletic area including: Shot Put, Javelin, Discus, Sprinting and Relays during PE lessons which will give them the confidence to participate in these activities at the school carnival on Tuesday 4th June.

Years 7 to 10 PDHPE classes…are currently completing units of work on:

Year 10
• ‘Protective Strategies including Harm Minimisation’
Year 9
• ‘What’s the Big Issue including Drug Use and Abuse’
Year 8
• ‘Positive Relationships’
Year 7
• ‘Body-Wise including Fitness and Nutrition’

The information that students learn in PDHPE will give them the knowledge and understanding to make and act on informed health decisions and lead a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Yours in Sport

Mr T Yelavich
Head Teacher & PDHPE Team

PDHPE Sports – Report

Winter Sport…
… has commenced for 2013 with Grade Sport being held at various venues around the St George Zone. Many Blakehurst Teams are performing extremely well and are in a promising position to make the semifinals which will be held in the middle of Term III. With further improvement in playing as a team, I’m confident Blakehurst will have success in the Winter Grade Sport Competition.

Cross Country
The annual Cross Country Championships were held at Carss Park on Monday 13th May. With beautiful weather and enthusiastic students ready to compete at their very best, a great day was enjoyed by all.

The top 10 runners in each age group guaranteed their position to represent the school at the St George Zone Cross Country Championships which were held at Scarborough Park on Monday 21st May. Ms Berrett the Team Manager noted how the students were highly motivated and excited about doing their best performance.

The Age Champions for Cross Country this year are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Yrs</td>
<td>Jade Campbell</td>
<td>Kyriakos Malaxos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Yrs</td>
<td>Nicole Harrington</td>
<td>Max Poulter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Yrs</td>
<td>Laura Seib</td>
<td>Conrad Byrnes-Krickl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Yrs</td>
<td>Julia Glavincevski</td>
<td>Drew Aftanas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Yrs</td>
<td>Herlinda Brandon</td>
<td>Chadwick Aryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+ Yrs</td>
<td>Natalia Bakrdanikoska</td>
<td>Dylan McCuaig-Walton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outstanding results were achieved by many runners in qualifying for the Sydney East Championships, but most impressive was the overall behaviour and sportsmanship shown on the day by all competitors. Out of 12 individual events, Blakehurst High School won 5. What a fantastic achievement.
The competitors qualifying for the Sydney East Carnival

- 12 yrs girls: Jade Campbell, 4th
- 12 yrs boys: Kyriakos Malaxos, 4th
- 13 yrs girls: Nicole Harrington, 1st
- 13 yrs boys: Max Poulter, 1st
- 14 yrs girls: Laura Seib, 3rd
- 15 yrs girls: Julia Glavincevski, 1st
- 15 yrs boys: Drew Aftanas, 2nd
- 17 yrs girls: Natalie Bakrdanikoska, 1st
- 17 yrs boys: Dylan McCuaig-Walton, 1st

Upcoming Events
- Sydney East Cross Country Championships – June 14th
- BHS Athletics Carnival – June 4th – The Ridge – Menai
- Zone Athletics carnival – June 17th & 18th

Table Tennis

Blakehurst High School sent a team of students to contest the NSW Secondary Table Tennis Championships at Homebush Bay. Thanks to Ms Alchin and Ms Chen for taking the time to organise the students for the competition. These students performed exceptionally well and their results were as follows:

- **Junior Girls Division (Year 7 & 8)**
  - Rachel Huang & Stella Hung, GOLD
  - Jessica Jiang & Emily Fan, SILVER

- **Intermediate Girls Division (Year 9 & 10)**
  - Michelle Kuang & Natasha Fong, GOLD
  - Tamika Kosasih & Tiffany Wong, SILVER
  - Janice Chen & Maureen Li, BRONZE
  - April He & Ellen Huang, BRONZE
  - Ellen Cheng was a semi finalist

- **Open Boys Division (Year 11 & 12)**
  - Aubrey Young & Nicholas Chen, BRONZE

Sports Achievements

Congratulations to Sheridan Smith who has recently gained selection into the NSW Swimming Team to compete at the Australian Championships. Sheridan’s results at the NSW All Schools Championships were:

- 1st – 400m Individual Medley
- 1st – 200m Individual Medley
- 3rd – 200m Butterfly

Congratulations to:-

- **Sarapheinna Woulf** Year 8, who has been selected in the Sydney East Girls Open Netball Team to compete at the NSW Championships.

- **Brooke Anderson** Year 11, who was selected in the Australian Rugby 7s Team to compete across the World where she has already travelled to Hong Kong and London. Unfortunately for Brooke she suffered a serious knee injury, so we wish Brooke a speedy recovery.

- **Julia Glavincevski** Year 10, who competed in the Australian Junior Triathlon Championships as a representative of the NSW Team. This is the second year in which Julia has made this team and is improving with each Triathlon she has entered. Congratulations!

All the above students who are excelling in their sport of their choice and I look forward to promoting their efforts in the weeks to come.

Regards

Mr N Smith
Sports Organiser
Keynote Speaker
Anthony Carroll “Harries” from Bondi Rescue

Anthony “Harries” Carroll is one of the stars of reality TV Show, Bondi Rescue. He grew up in Cronulla and was diagnosed with Dyslexia at 9.

Harries and his twin brother Shaun who also has dyslexia were required to attend a school for “special” kids a long way from home and had to wear yellow glasses to help with reading. Despite this, Anthony started surfing at 10 years of age and trained hard to become a life guard at 19. Still looking to broaden his skills he applied three times to become a flight attendant at Qantas. He was rejected every time but separately was hired as “The Face of Qantas” to promote the airline throughout the world. He then returned to his true love the beach to work his way up to supervisor for what is regarded as the best Lifeguard Service in the world. Harries is now responsible for the lives of up to 40 000 beach goers on Bondi on any given day. Although his reading difficulty is still very much a daily part of his life, he hasn’t let it stop him from pursuing his dreams and achieving his goals.

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Address:

Home phone: Mobile:

School:

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I authorize my son/daughter to attend the HSC LOCK-IN on Friday 5 July at Kogarah Library.

I understand that the HSC LOCK-IN runs for 4 hours from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm.

I understand that my son/daughter is not allowed to leave the HSC LOCK-IN before 11.00 pm without my express written permission.

I understand that I am responsible for arranging my son/daughter’s safe transportation to and from the HSC LOCK-IN.

I give permission for photographs taken of my son/daughter during the HSC LOCK-IN to be used for the purposes of Library reports and publicity (please tick):

☒ Yes  ☐ No

Parent/Guardian’s full name:

Parent/Guardian’s signature: Contact phone:
Dyslexia Support Group

Do you have a child with Dyslexia?

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

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

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