Final Term for Year 12 and Their Graduation Ceremony

Term 3 is always an exciting time for our Year 12 students as they work through the final months of what has been a thirteen year journey. Flooding through their minds will be the memories, friendships, funny moments, the triumphs and the challenges that have now defined these fine young men and women as the Class of 2013.

At the time of writing this article, the planning for the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony is well underway and we eagerly await that proud moment for both parents and our school.

Year 12 parents, you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend your son’s/ daughter’s Graduation. Don’t miss it! Put Thursday 19 September in your diary now. There are two events, both in the morning. First, the Graduation Ceremony which begins promptly at 9.30am in the Hall. Second, there is morning tea following the ceremony, held in the area surrounding the Hall. Please join us.

Year 12 students are expected to present in full winter school uniform for the Graduation Ceremony. Any student out of uniform will not be allowed to be awarded their Graduation Certificate or any other award on that day. Parents, your encouragement and support with this would be much appreciated.

Teachers Going the Extra Mile

We are fortunate to have so many staff members who used the most recent 2 week holiday period to spend additional time with Year 12 students. Whilst it appeared the school was in recess, many teachers were still running support lessons to help students. This included working with kids to finalise their major works and prepare for upcoming examinations - the HSC in practical subjects and language courses as well as the Trial HSC. A huge thank you to those staff members who willingly gave of their time to support our students.

Subject Selection Process

This term students in Year 10 will embark on the important process of selecting their senior courses for 2014. This is an important time but it can be daunting. For this reason, the school planned a range of activities, including an Information Evening and Subject Market, to support students in making subject choices with confidence. As part of the Subject Selection process a team of school staff members will individually interview all Year 10 students and check the suitability of the subjects they have chosen. This will occur during Week 9 of Term 3. Students also should have received a copy of the 2014 Subject Selection Booklet. This book provides comprehensive information about the courses on offer at Blakehurst High School. I would encourage students and parents to spend time reading and discussing the information contained within this book.

Energy Saving Ideas from Year 8 Students

I was most impressed with the effort of a number of our Year 8 students who, in their own time, reviewed and measured energy use around the school and then determined ways that we can reduce its use, and therefore cost to the school. Each group demonstrated their findings, many via PowerPoint presentation, and more importantly their solutions. Their research will now proceed to a regional level and we hope to obtain funds to implement their ideas. Some creative ideas included the installation of sensor devices that will turn lights off automatically and poster campaign to raise awareness. Thank you Mr Roff for your leadership and effort in this area.
**Payment of School Contributions**

One of the reasons your children have such wonderful educational opportunities at Blakehurst High School is that we are able to resource their learning with current texts, up to date software and provide access to the best teaching and learning materials. We can only do this through your payment of School Contributions. A gentle reminder that if you have forgotten to send in your child’s contribution, it would be well received. If you would like to pay in installments, please give Kim Morris in the Front Office a call. Your support is very much appreciated and makes an enormous difference to the quality of education we are able to provide at Blakehurst.

This Term is well underway already and I look forward to a productive and enjoyable remainder of the term for both students and staff.

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![Blakehurst High School payment form](image)

**Blakehurst High School**

**PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ONLY**

| Student Name: ___________________________ | Roll Class: __________ |
| Payment For: _____________________________ |

**PAYMENT DETAILS:** (Please tick on box)

- Please debit my credit card for $ __________
- Visa [ ]
- Mastercard [ ]

Name on Card: _____________________________

Card Number: __________ __________ __________ __________ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Expiry Date: __________ / __________

Signature: _____________________________

(Receipt will be sent home with student)
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S Report

Term three has been a busy time with many students engaged in a wide variety of activities. Many of these are reported in the Newsletter to let you, the parents, read about how rich and varied an experience your child can have at Blakehurst High School. Please encourage them to become involved in a wide range of activities, as students who do so often become the most confident and successful young people in our community.

Year 12 Trial Exams & Year 11 Final Exams
Year 12 students have just finished the Trial examinations. I hope the results are all they hope for and deserve. These last few weeks can be difficult for many students. There is an increase in the workload as you reach the end and it can also be an emotional strain to realise that "school" which has been a focus in your life for so long is finally ending. Some students look forward to a new beginning, but others find change is difficult. Try to keep study, social life, sport and other activities in balance. Most of all support each other.

Year 11 should be starting to engage in serious study routines so that they are prepared for their final exams at the end of this term. It is easy to think that Year 11 "doesn’t count" but many Year 12 students would now disagree. Treat study as your most important activity over the next few weeks.

Year 7 Camp
Year 7 students had a memorable three days on camp in Week 4. Although it was quite cold and damp, they all seem to have returned with smiles. I am sure that the experiences that they have at camp will remain as lifelong memories. We all need to thank the staff who gave up their time to attend the camp.

School Fees
Thank you to all parents who have paid all school fees. Fees at Blakehurst High School are quite modest compared to other government schools. We use this money to purchase resources for students to use. Invoices were sent out early in the Term. If you have not yet finalised your payment, please do so as soon as possible.

Year 8 Subject Selections
Year 8 students have made their Subject Selections for 2014 and 2015. We will now use their preferences to determine lines and ensure that all students are placed in subjects that they have chosen. I will contact individual students and parents if I need further information. When the lines and choices are finalised they will be published but this may not occur until later in the Term.

Year 10 Subject Selections
Year 10 students will make their final Subject Selections. The form is a little more complicated. You need to choose one subject from each line. Even if you think you will do a TVET (TAFE) course you still need to enrol in 6 subjects in case you are not accepted by TAFE. The One Unit subjects at the bottom of the table, if selected, are in addition to the six main subjects. Don’t worry too much about the level of Maths and English. Your teachers in these subjects will assist with choosing the correct course.

During the next few weeks every student will have an interview to ensure that the subjects chosen are appropriate for his/her ability and aspirations. To assist, you must also complete the back of the green sheet and have a parent sign it. You also need signatures from your class or Head Teachers from the faculties of the subjects you have chosen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Record of Vaccination...

....will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this Record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do no Receive this Record of Vaccination. It is also recommended that you inform your GP so they can update your child’s records.

If your child is absent on any vaccination day, they may catch up in the following session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccinations Year 7 ALL</th>
<th>Vaccinations Year 8</th>
<th>Vaccinations Year 9 MALE ONLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visit 1</strong> 08/03/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 1</strong> 08/03/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 1</strong> 08/03/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hepatitis B vaccine (2 dose course)</td>
<td>- HPV -ONLY those Year 8 Female students who have an incomplete course that was commenced in Year 7 2012</td>
<td>- HPV dose 1 of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Booster (Whooping cough)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- HPV dose 1 of 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visit 2</strong> 31/05/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 2</strong> 31/05/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 2</strong> 31/05/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HPV (dose 2 of 3)</td>
<td>- HPV - ONLY Year 8 Female students who missed any vaccination in Visit 1 can receive catch up at this visit.</td>
<td>- HPV dose 2 of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Varicella (chicken pox- single dose)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- HPV &amp; Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Pertussis vaccine catch-ups</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visit 3</strong> 11/10/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 3</strong> 11/10/13</td>
<td><strong>Visit 3</strong> 11/10/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hepatitis B vaccine (dose 2 for those who received dose 1)</td>
<td>- HPV ONLY Year 8 Female students who missed any vaccination in Visits 1 &amp; 2 can receive catch up at this visit.</td>
<td>- HPV dose 3 of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HPV (dose 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- HPV &amp; Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis vaccine catch ups</td>
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</tbody>
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**Welfare Report**

**Junior Prefects**
The Junior Prefects would like to thank all those students who supported the **Jeans for Genes** day. Despite the fact that there were so many students on excursion and exams, we raised over $300.

**Senior Prefects**
It is hard to believe that it is Senior Prefect selection time again. We have 40 applicants from Year 11 this year. They will all be interviewed by members of the Welfare - Leadership team. The selection process is based on; the student's proven commitment to Blakehurst High School, their leadership potential and their vision for the leadership team.

The standard of applicants is very high and it will be a difficult process to make the selections. We wish them good luck!

**40 Hour Famine**
Year 11 students have initiated the 40 Hour famine fund raising campaign at BHS. It is great to see that the enthusiasm of the organising team has spread to the student body with so many students signing up. If you would like to make a donation to the school team online, just Google 40 Hour Famine and log onto BHS Forty Hour Famine.
To mark **World Autism Awareness** Day in April, the Junior Prefects at BHS are organising a Pictionary game competition to help raise funds and awareness of Autism. Playing Pictionary provides participants with a glimpse of the daily challenges experienced by people living with Autism. The frustration experienced while attempting to make a drawing understood by others is similar to the frustration experienced by many on the Autism Spectrum.

So get a team together (2-3 friends) and register for the competition which will be held at recess and lunch. It will be a lot of laughs and registration fees will go to this great charity.

Watch the daily newsletter for details.
News from Mathematics Faculty…

It’s exam season again…
All students are reminded that they can ask their Maths teacher for help after class at any time. Of course there is the homework centre in the library. But what about when you’re at home and really need some help right now?

We in the Maths faculty have been searching for useful online learning, revision and testing sites (free and low cost). We’ve put many links on Moodle and several are regularly being used by teachers; some are listed for you below. Some are Australian, some are not but all will allow you to find much Maths content (and some more subjects) that is very relevant to the NSW curriculum.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths/
www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/maths
www.khanacademy.org
www.wolframalpha.com
www.quizlet.com
www.mathsonline.com.au
www.mathletics.com.au
www.studyladder.com.au

Talented Students Day
At the beginning of Term 2, our Extension 2 Mathematics (aka 4 unit) students travelled to the University of Technology, Sydney, for a morning of Maths-related University lectures and an afternoon of HSC specific tutorials, all organised by the Mathematical Association of NSW. It was a brilliant day and a tremendous opportunity to see hundreds of other students of similar ability being equally inspired.

Mathematics in Surveying
Very soon 18 Year 10 students are heading to Bicentennial Park, Homebush, for a day of activities organised by the Institution of Surveyors. This will be a brilliant, practical day, and we look forward to an Excursion report from them for the next Newsletter.

Australian Maths Competition
This annual competition was held nation-wide in early August and over 70 Blakehurst High students participated (with a particularly high participation from Year 7, well done). We’ll put in the highlights of results when they are received later this year.

Roll Up Your Sleeves, Blakehurst!

We have many Term 3 donation days, so there is plenty of opportunity for our age 16+ eligible donors to donate. The Red Cross send a volunteer driver to the school who safely escorts up to seven students to the Blood Donor Centre at Miranda and back again. See Mrs Peachey in the Maths Staffroom to book your appointment time, or wait for our Year 11 ambassadors to find you! Pick-up times from school are below. You can assume you will be gone for 2 hours, but it should take much less time.

Week 6B
Wednesday 21 August – 11am, 12.10pm
Friday 23 August – 8.00am

Week 7A
Tuesday 27 August – 8.15am

Week 8B
Tuesday 3 September – 10.45am
Friday 6 September – 9.00am

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics
On Thursday 1st August 2013, our Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory – Textiles students and our Year 10-12 Textiles students showcased their skills in a fashion parade at Westfield, Hurstville. Throughout the year, our students have been hard at work constructing their creations. The fashion parade is always a highlight for our Textile students as they showcase their wonderful talents to an appreciative crowd. Personally, I’d like to thank Mrs Allen, Mrs Simpson, Ms Hatjinikitas and Ms Grima as well as all the students who were part of the fashion parade for all the hard work they put in to this event.
Café 2234 & Hospitality Work Placement

Year 11 Hospitality will be utilizing the skills they learnt during their Barista course in Term 1 of this year, along with much practice, as they begin running Café 2234 every Wednesday.

With a mixture of anxiety and adrenaline, they took the reins like professionals for the first time and did an outstanding job.

As the current Year 12 leave us, this new energetic group of students will take over the School Café and will continue to improve their service skills. They will also be attending Work Placement at various venues around Sydney. We thank Sydney Tattersalls Club, Fusion Cruises, Café Sul Ponte Hurstville, Lil Star Café Banksia and Scusi Café at Kogarah Bay.

Practical classes

Parents and Caregivers, I ask for your support in ensuring that your child comes to our practical classes wearing their enclosed leather school shoes and that they bring all their practical equipment.
News from the LIBRARY

Quickly students, you only have until the end of August to finish the Premier’s Reading Challenge. To ensure students receive their certificate/medallion, students must make sure they have handed in a completed reading log with either parent or teacher signature to either Mrs Alchin or Mrs Larson before 31st August.

New books, new books….come and take a look!

- **How to Keep a Boy from Kissing You** by Tara Eglington. Sweet sixteen and never been kissed—and that’s the way Aurora Skye wants to keep it—she’s too busy. But always in the background there’s a boy next door, Hayden…
- **The Amber amulet** by Craig Silvey. Liam McKenzie patrols his suburban neighbourhood as the Masked Avenger—a superhero with powers so potent not even he can fully comprehend their extent.
- **Blood Red Road** by Moira Young. One for Hunger Games fans.
- **Under the Eagle** by Simon Scarrow. Action packed story set in Roman Britain. Cato is on a special mission to stop a conspiracy against the Emperor.
- **Never Fall Down** by Patricia McCormick. Based on the true story of a child soldier under the Pol Pot regime of Cambodia. Not suitable for Year 7.
- **Alcatraz versus evil librarians**—by Brandon Sanderson. Who knew that libraries were centres for all evil?

Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed the Reading Challenge.

**Year 7**
- Emily FAN, Souhaib MERHI, Orvella WINARTA

**Year 8**
- Andrew TSE, Natalie WONG

**Year 9**
- Joanne FENG, Natasha FONG, Von Ricardo HERMAN, Tiffany Pham, Victoria RORRIS, Matthew GILES, Jacob KING, Christine POTROSS

Children’s Book Council of Australian Awards.
The winners from the shortlist of these awards will be announced on the 16th August. Although the Junior Judges program is no longer operating, the students attending Book Café have been reading the shortlisted books and will be conducting their own vote on the day before. It will be interesting to see if our readers agree with the Council judges!
Year 11 VET Students
Congratulations, to all students who have successfully completed their second Work Placement. Please remember that it is your responsibility to catch up on all missed work; see your classroom teachers for help.

Preliminary Exams are just around the corner. They are compulsory for all VET students up to and including the Trial exam (except for Sports Coaching). After the Trial exam you may opt out of your HSC VET examination if you do not require an ATAR.

Mrs J Simpson
Head Teacher VET

Year 12 VET Students
Work Placement is MANDATORY. You will receive an N-award in your VET subject if you do not complete Work Placement. If you have not completed 70 hours of Work Placement by the 31st August 2012, your VET subject will not count towards your HSC. Please see your teacher or Mrs Simpson ASAP to organise this.

If you would like to opt out of the HSC exam please see me for a permission note. Keep completing your class work to ensure you get the most out of your training, i.e. your Certificate II. If you have not met the requirements in some competencies please see your teacher also for the work that is outstanding.

Mrs J Simpson
Head Teacher VET

INDUSTRIAL ARTS Info...

Earlier this year the P&C generously allocated funds to this faculty in order to purchase some cameras and photographic equipment. The Year 11 Multimedia class has been working with the cameras, lighting and such to create projects as well as a “Thank You” video for the P&C.

The addition of two DSLR cameras and a GoPro camera to the availability of the animation software we have available for the students has allowed for an increase in projects that the students from Year 9 to 12 have been able to experience.

Mr S Moses
Head Teacher Industrial Arts
HSIE Roundup

Ski Trip


On the 28th of July, a group of 29 Year 10 and 11 students boarded a coach bound for Thredbo. The coach left Blakehurst High school at around 9:30am and we didn't stop until around 12:00pm, where we finally reached Goulburn to stop for lunch. At Goulburn, there was a variety of food we could choose to eat; McDonalds, Kebabs, Subway, or The Bakery at Goulburn (very nice!).

After a long SIX hour drive, we finally reached our lodge which was in Bungarra, 40 minutes away from Thredbo. The lodge was small yet cozy and pleasant. Once we took our luggage into the lodge, we headed straight up to Ski Hire where we were fixed with the essentials; our ski boots, skis, and helmets. Thereafter, we settled down in our lodge as we had 2 hours before dinner. During these 2 hours, students chose bunks, unpacked, showered, played games and so forth. It was soon time for dinner and we all made our way up to the Cafeteria looking hungry and feeling very eager to eat. After dinner, we had about 2 hours free time where many funny yet mischievous incidents occurred. One night the Year 11 boys attempted to cover Ms Butler's face with Shaving cream while she was all wrapped up in her sleeping bag on the couch!

Our 6am wakeup call by Mr Slater was very early compared to what we are used to! We had to have eaten, changed and assembled our gear ready to hop onto the bus by 7:20am. Once all that was done, we had a 40 minute ride to Thredbo where most of us were tired, yet eager to set out onto the snow. Once we arrived at our destination, everyone split into their groups; First Time, Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced. In these groups, we had a lesson from 9am-11am each day apart from the first day where our first lesson was followed by another in the afternoon from 1pm-3pm as well. In between this time, we had free skiing time in which we were able to go wherever our instructors had taken us during the lessons. The Year 11 boys, being more experienced in skiing, made their way up to the top of Mount Kosciusko and stripped down to their board shorts to take a group photo as a part of their little 'adventures'.

As the days passed, everyone become wearier as the effects of skiing began taking its toll on their bodies. Nevertheless, everyone kept improving their skiing skills and were able to tackle harder mountains and ski trails. By the end of the amazing 4 days, everyone was extremely tired and sad that the trip had come to an end. During the ride home, we watched movies; however, the majority of the students fell asleep. After a quick stop at Sutton Forest McDonalds for dinner, we were back at school on Wednesday night to share all our stories with our parents. Everyone had so much fun and many of the Year 10's are excitedly planning for next year's trip!

……Tamika Kosasih
Year 10 Student and Skiing Enthusiast

Mr P Slater
Head Teacher HSIE/Ski Trip Co–ordinator
CAPA ‘Column’

It has been ‘business as usual’ in the CAPA Faculty this term.

We have been very pleased to welcome Mr Alan Watters to our staff for the first 5 weeks of this term, replacing Mrs Bellato while she is on long service leave. Mr Watters has been amazing. He has performed with the students on assembly and has been of great assistance with the rehearsals for our concert band.

Choir

On Friday 19 July the choir attended the 2nd rehearsal in preparation for the Expanding Horizons Gala Concert. We travelled to Burwood Girls High School and rehearsed with many other Sydney Region schools.

The students not only performed well, but were outstanding ambassadors for our school. Mrs Bourtsoukis and I were very proud of our students and we are all looking forward to the Gala Concert, which will be held on Monday 19 August at the Sydney Opera House. The repertoire we will be singing consists of a suite of Australian folk songs and the Beatles Medley, ‘Hello Goodbye’.

Education Week

Several of our Music groups performed at Hurstville Westfield to celebrate Education Week 2013. The String Ensemble – Annabelle Wong, Chrysanthi Diasinos, Hope Diasinos, Beatrice Wong and Esther Yuan, performed two pieces: Bushwackers Stomp and Fantasia on Scarborough Fair. The girls have been rehearsing each Thursday afternoon after school and delighted the crowd with their polished performance. Year 9 Music Elective students, Dennis Alima and Nicola Calder-Little, together with Mr Watters performed the ‘No Superman’ from ‘Scrubs’, and our esteemed school captain, Ruby Calder-Little took time out from her HSC Trial Exams to perform as well.

Regional Orchestra

Congratulations to Annabelle Wong and Chrysanthi Diasinos, who have been selected to represent BHS in the Violin section of Regional Orchestra. They will be attending the Annual Camp this week and will then attend regular rehearsals for other performances in the region later this year. I am sure they will have a wonderful time, learn lots of new music, make new friends and demonstrate their outstanding talent and commitment to music.

Drama

On Wednesday 21 August the Year 12 Drama students will complete the practical component of their HSC for their Group and Individual Performance Exams. Mrs Shaw has spent countless hours with the girls and they have been rehearsing tirelessly in preparation for this exam. All the very best girls – ‘break a leg’ as they say! I am sure it will all go well for you.

YEAR 12 CAPA Showcase Performances

On Wednesday 28 August, we will be showcasing our talented HSC performers to family and friends. Our students have worked very hard in preparation for their HSC performance exams and it is a great opportunity for parents and friends to see the students perform their repertoire. The Drama class will perform their Group Piece and the Music 1 students will perform a selection of their HSC pieces in preparation for their practical exam, which will be held in Week 8 or 9 of this term. Family and friends of our Year 12 students are invited to attend. The Showcase will commence at 5.00pm for approximately an hour and a half.

Visual Arts

Our Year 12 Visual Arts students have also been working very hard making final preparations for their submitted artworks for their HSC. Their artworks will be submitted to the Board of Studies for corporate marking this year and returned to us during Term 4.

Thank you to our amazing CAPA Team for assisting our Year 12 students to be the best that they can be at this important time. All the very best to our students preparing for their practical exams!

Ms J Jacobsen
Head Teacher & CAPA Team
On Wednesday 7th August, 100 Blakehurst High School Year 7 students ventured out to the Great Aussie Bush Camp, near Tea Gardens. The students and teachers all had a fantastic time with many fun and challenging activities such as the Dual Flying Fox, Giant Swing, Leap of Faith, Raft Building and Team Challenge. Our students tried new experiences, overcame personal challenges and developed their team building and leadership skills. What impressed the teachers the most, was that students were willing to have a go and those that were a little hesitant were encouraged by their peers. It was just beautiful to see. The students slept in cabin style tents and yes, it did rain and yes, we did experience one of the coldest days for years, yet we are sure that it’s an experience they will never forget and the memories of their adventure will last a lifetime.

A huge thank you to Mr Slater, Ms Camilleri and Mr Roff for attending the camp. Below are some comments from student that attended.

“"The best activity was the huge Flying Fox that I did with Olivia McDonnell. I leapt off only to turn around and see her still standing on the platform.”" Ria Stephenson

“The Leap of Faith was thrilling and exciting. We climbed a thin 9m wooden pole and as we did, the pole wobbled more and more. Once I reached the top I had to jump and grab a metal bar and hang there while I was lowered by friends.” (Nicole Harrington)

“The Giant Swing was epic. At a height of 15m was the “super trustworthy” swing. To get 15m high your fellow peers had to pull you up. You then had your life depending on your instructor’s knots. From the swing there was a beautiful view. To fall on the swing you had to pull on a knot. You then swung back and forth until stopped by your instructor.” (Olivia McDonnell)

“Camp was great. There were many activities such as Flying Fox, Giant Slide, Raft Building and many more. The best though was the Giant Swing. The food was decent but the only downside was that the food would always be the same. The weather was very cold and we couldn’t do the Lost Island which was disappointing.” (Ben Wu)

“The activities were so much fun. My favourite was the Leap of Faith. The instructors were helpful too. I didn’t like the tents though. It was hard to get changed into my pyjamas because there was no light, and well, they were tents.” (Zack Lewin)
Teachers become teachers for lots of different reasons. I can’t speak on behalf of all teachers, but I can speak on behalf of myself and say that I am an English teacher simply because I love English. Most English teachers love English. If this makes us nerds, then so be it. We love English. We love William Shakespeare. We love poetry. We especially love an Aboriginal poet named Lorna Munroe. A dedicated member of staff stumbled across Lorna and we made it our mission to bring Lorna Munroe into the school for all Year 9 students in Term 2.

Lorna came to our school and presented some of her amazing poetry to all our Year 9 students. Aboriginal poetry is one of the units that Year 9 completes in English each year in Term 2. If you’d like to see Lorna Munroe you can go to The Red Room Company website. When Lorna speaks her poems you can’t help but stop and listen. As a Darug woman of the Eora Nation, I felt a physical reaction to the intensity of her words. Lorna commented to me afterwards that our Year 9 students were one of the most well-behaved and engaged audiences she has ever seen. Lorna said their questions were intelligent and relevant. We are so lucky to have had a professional writer come to our school.

The timing of Lorna’s visit was perfect as our school has been celebrating NAIDOC Week in Terms 2 and 3. All Year 9 English students submitted a poster for a competition for NAIDOC Week. The winners will be announced in Term 3. First prize is $100 cash and there are four runners-up prizes.

Daisy Kennedy-Holtz in Year 12 and Rebekah Thoms in Year 10 were both nominated for and won awards during the official NAIDOC Week period which falls inside the school holidays. Daisy and Rebekah both won Active Aboriginal People Awards, as both of these girls are brilliant role models for young Aboriginal women.

In addition, Rachelle Thoms and Rebekah Thoms were both nominated for and won scholarships from Sydney Region Office. Rachelle and Rebekah both received a cheque of $500 each to go towards their educational needs.

Over the next few weeks, a mural will be painted at school in celebration of NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week is a time to remember the past and present experiences of Aboriginal people in Australia. Aboriginal Education is an on-going process and the mural we are painting this term is symbolic of that. The mural will remain in the school for years to come. The mural will be a reminder that we should not forget Australia’s Aboriginal history. Identified Aboriginal students at the school will be painting the mural, but anybody is welcome to be involved in the process. Those who want to be involved should speak to Miss Everett or Mr Jenkins.

We must send out a HUGE thank you to TAUBMANS, BRISTOL and WHITEHORSE PAINT who donated the paint for the mural. Without their donation, the mural would not be able to happen. :)

....Ms Everett

English
Congratulations again to the Senior Debating Team for participating in the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Recently our Senior Team members from Year 11, Jasmin Huang, Rebecca Luhur, Ayesha Nhern and Alexander Woof, joined by Dylan McCuaig-Walton, Ms Nozica and myself, Mrs Lyons attended a debate organised by intelligence2 at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, Sydney.

It was held in the evening, and the students willingly gave up their own time to take advantage of this interesting and educational experience. (See the flyer for the specifics.) Through this networking, Blakehurst High can look forward to further invitations to such prestigious events, and, to make it even better, have access to complimentary tickets!

...Ms J Lyons
Co-ordinator

Transition Advisers REPORT

Congratulations to all our Year 9 students who participated in first round of the Yamaha Young Mechanics Student Grand Prix. These students were: Bilal Diab; Jonathan Engley; Matthew Giles; Jacob King; Korey Pirillo and Jayden Xabregas.

All the students worked hard on the day and are to be commended for their enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour. The students who progressed to the Grand Final of the Student Grand Prix held on the 15th August were Korey Pirillo and Jayden Xabregas. Congratulations to all participants and to Korey And Jayden for making it to the Grand Final. There will be an update on this wonderful event in the next newsletter.

Most of these students also attended the newly renovated and expanded Automotive Light Vehicle / Marine Mechanics Faculty at Ultimo TAFE to investigate career opportunities in these and other related fields.

Once again we thank our Partnership Broker, CBCC for facilitating these activities, and Martin Dwyer, from Yamaha, for making this program available to our students.

Ms J Hinson
Head Teacher English

Ms J Lyons
Transition Adviser/English Faculty
Congratulations to Peter Koutsoukos and Remy Blatch-Williams - new Presidents of Interact starting from Term 3 2013.

We are continuing with our Wrap with Love’ project in Term 3. We have been busily knitting our squares and along with the donations, we have collected over 100 squares!!!!

A huge thank you to ALL of our contributors including mums, aunties and grandmas - the rainbow of colours will make amazing blankets.

Donations are welcome until the end of Term 3, when we will begin to sew the blankets together. Any volunteers to help with this task should contact Venny Wiryakusuma in HSIE. Stay tuned for more news!

‘Cold humanity is our concern
People caring about other people’
LOTE Report

**Japanese Cultural Day**

The Year 10 Japanese class participated in a Japanese cultural Day at Sydney University in the first week back this term. They were divided into groups, mixing with students from a range of schools and participated in cultural workshops such as manga and fan decorating.

They were then entertained with dancers and drummers. Some were even brave enough to participate. It was a fun day and a good way to experience life at University if only for a day.

The Year 10 students also had fun creating parfaits in class to finish their unit on Japanese food.

**Opaaa!!!!!**

In the first week of this term, all students studying Modern Greek in Years 7-12 went on an excursion to a Greek restaurant called the **fix**. The students enjoyed delicious Greek food - souvlakia, kalamari, haloumi and much more. They ate, danced and were entertained by a Greek Band. It was great to see the older students having fun with the younger ones. Students being serenaded by our lovely singer and enjoying the Greek dancing.
Chinese + Japanese Classes

On August 2, Year 11 Chinese and Japanese classes together with some SRC students had an excursion to the Australian Museum. We then enjoyed a picnic in Hyde Park and played games organised by our SRC student leaders.

It was a great opportunity for the International Students to learn about Australia and adapt themselves to the new culture and life.

Many thanks to our SRC student leaders: Dylan McCuaig-Walton, Michelle Zhang, Jing Xu, Cecilia Wong, Karen Poon for their initiative and leadership in the Acculturation Project!

.....Xiao Chen
Teacher of Chinese

Mrs A Mangraviti
Head Teacher LOTE
News from SCIENCE

International Science Competition Results 2013

The much anticipated 2013 ICAS Science results have been received. BHS has achieved some very good marks this year. Students with outstanding grades have been rewarded with Credits and Distinctions.

Students who gained a Credit:
Year 7: Alexander Choon, Nicole Harrington, Andrew Hung, Zack Lewin, David Liu, Olivia McDonnell, Ahmad Oleik, Nehal Usman, Sunny Wong, Kathy Xu.

Year 8: Zalika Azam, Sean Chen, Nathan Driscoll, Monica Gee, Jett Hawes, Aaron Nancarrow, Lillyanna Oleik, Sidney Radwan, Caitlin Su, Annabelle Wong.

Year 9: Jana Atanasova, Michelle Chen, Jade Chen, Vincent Hu, Patrick Huang, Gordon Qian, Steven Ribaroski, Bryan Yeung.


Year 11: Jason Cheung, Alex Fang.

Year 12: Aimee Chen, James Xu.

Students who gained a Distinction:
Ria Stephenson Yr 7, Hayden Smith Yr 8, Wendy Yang Yr12.

Congratulations to all involved. ICAS Science is a challenging exam, and BHS is proud of each and every student who was willing to take up the challenge. Keep up the good work!

Family Power
It is quite a feat for a student to achieve an award in the ICAS International Science Competition. After all, the exam is thorough and some of the questions asked can be quite challenging even for the most brilliant of students. So a Credit for an award is something to be proud of. It is a certificate worth keeping; a reliable credential a student could use in the future if the student decides to apply for a grant.

As for the Oleik family, they can be doubly proud this year with both Ahmad Year 7 and Lillyanna Year 8 achieving Credit in Science. This is a pleasing result. BHS commends them and their family for such success. Well done!

…..K Estephan
Science Teacher
On the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} of August, all of Year 7 had the privilege of going to the Sydney Aquarium and the Sydney Wildlife World. After battling the Sydney trains we arrived at the city and first went to the big blue aquarium. We saw some of the brightest and most colourful fish and corals, including the blue tang!

The cutest creatures at the aquarium were, of course the Penguins! We only saw them briefly but we all agreed that they looked like small ducks floating upon the water. However, nothing compared to seeing the Mermaids; also known as Dugongs. Did you know that Dugongs are more closely related to Elephants than to Dolphins? With their cow-like mouths and Dolphin-like tails, the Dugongs amazed us with their grace and beauty as they effortlessly floated through the exhibit.

After a quick recess break, we scurried along towards the Sydney Wildlife World. We saw lots of different creatures from Crocodiles to Spiders; Koalas to Lizards and much more. Our favourite exhibit was the butterfly, where we walked inside the exhibit and butterflies and tiny birds flew. Even though the butterflies weren't very vibrant and it was very humid, it was highly enjoyable just like the whole excursion. All in all, every person in Year 7 that attended the excursion enjoyed it immensely. We really had a great time learning about many different species of animals.

We would personally like to thank our wonderful teacher, Mrs Ware, and the rest of the Science department for giving us the opportunity to have this fun, yet educational day.

…..Ria Stephenson, Sally Ibrahim, Olivia McDonnell
**PDHPE Sports – Report**

With the end of Winter Grade Sport coming to a close, many Blakehurst High School teams are in very promising positions to make the semi-finals and progress through to the grand finals. The semi-finals are scheduled for the 14th August with the grand finals a later on the 21st August. At the completion of the Winter Grade Sport competition, students will return to their Summer sport on the 28th September.

**Cross Country**
On Friday 19th July, we had five students represent Sydney East at the NSW All Schools Cross Country Championships. This was held at Eastern Creek Raceway and it was a great achievement by Nicole Harrington Year 7, Max Poulter Year 7, Julia Glavincevski Year 10, Dylan McCuaig-Walton Year 11 and Natalie Bakdanikoska Year 12 to perform so well.

**Congratulations to all these students and their results were:**

- Nicole Harrington - 97th in the U/13 girls
- Max Poulter - 15th in the U/13 boys
- Julia Glavincevski – 14th in the U/15 girls
- Dylan McCuaig-Walton – 18th in the U/17 boys

Unfortunately for Natalie, this was at a crucial time in her preparation for the HSC studies and Trial exams and therefore she could not compete. I want to personally congratulate Natalie on her achievements this year whilst balancing her academic studies and sporting endeavours. Congratulations Natalie, you are a wonderful role model for all of Blakehurst High School and the wider community.

I look forward to seeing more outstanding results from these great athletes in years to come. Congratulations!

**Athletics Carnival**
On the 1st & 2nd August, the Regional Athletics Carnival was held at the Sylvania Athletics Track. With a record number of students making it through and representing the St George Zone, we had a number of students making it through and representing the school with such pride and really did our school proud. I wish to acknowledge the staff who were there on the day, so a big thank you to Ms Grima, Mr Kemp and Ms Berrett. Blakehurst teams performed exceptionally and their results are listed below.

**Congratulations to all the students who played on the day:**

- Year 7/8 Girls – Runners Up
- Year 7/8 Boys – Champions
- Year 9 Boys – Runners Up
- Year 11/12 Girls – Runners Up
- Year 11/12 Boys – Semi Finalists

**Trampolining**
Congratulations to the following girls for the qualification and representation in the Sydney East Trampolining Team, to compete at the NSW Trampolining Championships.

- Emilie Autard Year 8
- Ashley Autard Year 10
- Rebecca Gray-Schwarz Year 10

Good luck to these talented trampolinists. I wish to report on the results in future sport reports.

**Gymnastics**
Congratulations to Emilie Autard Year 8 who was recently selected in the Sydney East Gymnastics WAG Team to contest the NSW Championships. We wish Emilie the best of luck and congratulate her on a fantastic achievement.

**Upcoming Events**

- NSWCHS Athletics Carnival – Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre, Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th September
- St George Zone Winter Grade Sport Finals – Wednesday 14th and 21st August

**Sport web sites**
The following sport web sites are useful for School Sport notices, Zone Sport information and Sydney East knock outs and representation.


**Regards,**

N Smith
Sport Organiser
EVENTS FOR PARENTS
LIFESTYLE & LEARNING

at KOGARAH LIBRARY

Navigating Teenage Depression
Wednesday 21 August
7.00 – 8.00pm

How to Bully-Proof Children
Wednesday 18 September
6.45 – 9.30pm

www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au
Navigating Teenage Depression
Wednesday 21 August
7.00 - 8.00pm

You will hear about:
• What is depression and bipolar disorder
• How to spot early warning signs in young people
• When and where to seek help
• How to support a young person you care about
• How to build resilience

The presentation is delivered by a trained presenter from the Black Dog Institute.

BOOKINGS: Online or 9330 9527

How to Bully Proof Children
Wednesday 18 September
6.45 - 9.30pm

Psychologists say one in five children will be bullied at school.

This free, professionally facilitated seminar will give parents & caregivers practical strategies for dealing with bullying. It will also provide parents with ideas for discussing the issue of bullying with their children.

BOOKINGS: Online or 9587 6622

BOOKINGS ONLINE:
www.kogarahlibrary.eventbrite.com.au

Kogarah Library
& Cultural Centre
Kogarah Town Square
Belgrave St Kogarah
Tel: 9330 9527
E: web.library@kogarah.nsw.gov.au

OPEN
Mon-Fri 9.30am to 7pm
Sat 10am - 4pm
Sun 10am to 1pm

Oatley Library
26 Letitia St
Oatley
Tel: 9379 6553

OPEN
Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm
Sat 10am - 1pm

South Hurstville Library
Cnr Short & Allen St
South Hurstville
Tel: 9330 9529

OPEN
Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm
Sat 10am to 1pm

www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au
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
GO IN THE RUNNING TO WIN AN IPAD

HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL
YOUTH SURVEY 2013

YOUNG PEOPLE OF HURSTVILLE
HAVE YOUR SAY AND GO IN THE RUNNING TO WIN.....
AN IPAD MINI OR ONE OF TEN DOUBLE PASSES TO THE MOVIES
Are you aged 12 – 25 years and live, work, study or play in Hurstville?
This is an opportunity to have your say about what is good and what could be
better about our area.

YOUR RESPONSES WILL HELP DIRECT HOW
HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL WORKS FOR YOU.

The survey will be available online from Monday 5 August - Sunday 1 September 2013.
To complete the survey go to www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/Youth-Services.html
For more information: Hurstville City Council Youth Development Officer
Phone: 9330 6063 Email: youth@hurstville.nsw.gov.au
CRAM FOR THE HSC BOOSTER

Book a consultation session with an HSC expert before the big exams!

Our popular subject drop-in sessions are here to assist students in preparing for their HSC exams. You can book a 15 minutes consultation session with an expert for those tricky topics, guided exam answers and helpful exam tips. Make sure you bring your questions to the session.

Book as a group (up to 3) or book for yourself. Turn your difficult questions into answers!

**Wednesday 28 August | English**
for English Standard and English Advanced

**Wednesday 4 September | Maths**
for General Maths, Mathematics and Maths Extension 1

**Wednesday 11 September | Business Studies, Legal Studies and Economics**

Time | 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Cost | $10 per session
Session duration | 15 mins
Location | Miles Franklin room, Hurstville Library

To book go to the service desk at Hurstville Library or phone 9330 6142