From the Principal

Highlights for 2014
As we draw to the end of another school year, I have reproduced my speech from last week's Presentation Night for your perusal, as it highlights a number of aspects from 2014.

“Looking back on the year, we have had a number of highlights;

- We started the year celebrating our outstanding 2013 HSC results. Top ATAR of 99.2. More than 20 students achieved ATARs 90 or above – this is well above State average. HSC All-round Achievers List – 2 students. Honour roll - 61 students in 22 subjects named on the State Merit list.
- The 2014 HSC results come out on the 17th of December; we have our fingers crossed, that our results are just as good, if not better than 2013.
- Satisfying NAPLAN results for Yrs 7 and 9 – particularly in Numeracy. Some aspects of Literacy are still a concern and strategies to improve them feature prominently in the 2015-17 School Plan.
- Building improvements continue with the refurbishment of the demountables and recarpeting of a number of classrooms as well as the construction of a lift and ramps to make us more accessible for community members with disabilities.
- A successful Year 7 camp to Hawkes Nest
- Language excursions to France and Melbourne.
- Yr 10 recently took part in either the Australian Business Week simulation program organised by Ms Wiyrakusuma, or work experience facilitated by our careers adviser, Ms Evers.
- Great Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, as well as continued success on the sporting field in Grade Sport
- $1000’s raised by our students to support charities such as the 40 hour famine and Children’s cancer.

These few snapshots from the year are just the tip of the iceberg. Many things happen on a daily basis in a large High School such as Blakehurst High, unfortunately too many on which to elaborate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&C for their ongoing support, both financially as well as in representation on Merit Selection panels for staff and the Finance committee. The P&C, has committed over $18000 to school programs and projects this year including –
   - School Awards
   - Funding of the Mathletics software package for the whole school
   - Continued support of the online study skills program and the SMS absence notification system.

I would like to particularly mention three long serving members of the P&C executive, who as their children completed Year 12 this year are leaving the P&C. They are:

- Leo Andreone, P&C President, 2010 -2014
- Tony Craig, Treasurer, 2010-2014 and
- Annette Schofield, Executive member for the last few years.

All three have done a wonderful job, in their time in office, and on behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank them for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

I would like to thank the staff at BHS – they are a great team and always have the best interest of the students at heart. There is a very strong culture in the school of Professional Development – this is because they are so concerned about achieving the best outcomes for students; and most are keen to “go the extra mile” to assist their students. Improvements at the school in recent years have come about as a result of this team effort by staff. This staff group constantly amazes me with their positive attitude and their acceptance of change (of which there has been much) if they see it will benefit the students and the school as a whole.
Blakehurst High School continues to be the **Comprehensive School of choice** in the area – more than 1100 students with more knocking on the door. In fact we have had to increase the number of Year 9 classes for 2015 due to increased demand for places in that cohort.

I would also like to thank you the parents and students of Blakehurst High School for your unwavering support of the school throughout 2014. Parents that have attended previous Presentation nights would be aware that I am very proud that I am a Principal of a public school that is fully inclusive; we are able to provide a quality education for ALL students regardless of their background, academic ability, or socio economic status. I am also proud that we are able to help develop our students into responsible citizens. To this end the school places a great emphasis on our **Respect and Responsibility Charter**. As an educator I see our role as not only to prepare students for the HSC or to teach them basic literacy and numeracy skills but also to educate the whole person, so they leave school as law abiding, caring and responsible citizens who possess the skills to exist and thrive in our rapidly changing world.

I hope you agree with me that Blakehurst High School achieves this for our students. We will continue to pursue this goal in 2015, in an endeavour to maintain Blakehurst High School as the best comprehensive school in the Sydney Region."

**Return Dates for 2015**

The return to school for the 2015 year is staggered as follows

- **Staff return Tuesday the 27th of January – Staff Development Day**
- **Years 7, 11 and 12 return Wednesday the 28th of January (9am Assembly)**
- **Years 8, 9 and 10 return Thursday the 29th of January (9am Assembly) Yrs 11 & 12 have Period 0 as per their timetables (7:45am start)**

I wish the entire Blakehurst High School community a happy and safe holiday over the festive season.
Comprehension help for teens
Some kids will read perfectly in primary school and then suddenly struggle with comprehension in high school. Here’s why.


Planning for the future
Throughout your child’s school life you’ll need to make choices about aspects of their education and future. Here’s a selection of tips to help you plan for parent-teacher talks, subject selection, careers advice and back-to-school.


Maths tips for tweens
Kids who find maths easy in the early years of school can be turned off quickly if they get confused and can’t work it out. Here are 10 ways to get your tween through the more challenging times


Different types of writing
Your child may be asked to present an assignment in a particular text type. Text types mean writing according to a purpose or an audience. For example, factual texts inform and literary texts entertain. This fact sheet gives several examples and the purpose of different types of writing.


Guide to technology tools
The holidays are traditionally the time for the big gifts that kids have been begging for all year. Here’s what to watch out for when choosing technology toys for your kids.


New website gives easy access to vocational courses
Students can explore the range of subsidised courses available to them in 2015 by visiting [https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/) The website features an Eligibility Checker and a Course Finder, which enable students to find approved training provider that meets their needs, as well as calculate their estimated fee. It also contains comprehensive information on apprenticeships and traineeships.

For enquiries, students can contact [enquiries@smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S Report

2014 Ends!
The 2014 school year has come to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our staff, students and families a joyous and safe holiday period. It has been another productive year at Blakehurst High School and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first semester here.

Year 7
On the 4th and 5th of December the Year 7 cohort was taken through Anti-Bullying workshops which offered them the opportunity to discuss this world-wide concern and provided them with strategies to help build resilience and empowered them to manage bullies in a proactive way. I would like to thank Ms Camilleri, Mr Roff and Ms Smith for running the workshops and the efforts of our Junior Prefects, along with Ari Millis and Peter Triantafyllis from Year 10, who assisted the staff in delivering this important Anti Bullying program to our Year 7 students.

Year 7B Advanced Class
Also on the 4th December, our Year 7B Advanced class put on a showcase of their RICH task learning for family members. Proud parents and carers attended an evening where the students displayed the process of their learning and produced their finished products. I would like to thank Ms Grima, Ms Pappas, Ms Koutsoukos, Ms Berrett, Ms Hawkins, Ms Evers, Ms Nozica and Ms Fabrizio for the many additional hours they put into making this experience a highly valuable one for all students involved and also Mr Moses for attending to support our students.

Working Towards 2015
Although we are all looking forward to a well-earned rest before we return refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges of 2015, planning for next year is well underway. I thank all the staff, a most dedicated group of educators who show their commitment to their craft and to their students each and every day. They have been developing new teaching programs and working on embedding the focal points of our 2015-17 School Plan in their teaching. Several staff have been formally trained in Gifted and Talented strategies that will be delivered to the Advanced groups and many new welfare programs are also being developed to ensure the wellbeing of all our students is catered for. Along with many other initiatives that we have in store for 2015, it’s already shaping up to be a successful year awaiting us.

Return Dates 2015
Years 7, 11 and 12 return on Wednesday 28th January, with Years 8, 9 and 10 returning the following day, Thursday 29th January. I ask that you please have your child prepared with the correct full school uniform and all equipment required for a successful start to the new school year. This includes the appropriate footwear, which must be *lace up black leather shoes*, to comply with WHS regulations and school expectations. Lowes is well stocked with all uniform items and I urge you to make your uniform purchases early and avoid the last minute January rush.

Farewell & Good Luck!
Blakehurst High holds a special part in all our lives and it is with sadness that we farewell HSIE teacher, Anne Broadbent, who will be taking prolonged leave at the end of the year. We extend to Anne our best wishes and we’re sure she’ll enjoy the extra time she will have with family and friends. Mr Shane Baker will be taking up a promotions position as Head Teacher of Science at Hurstville Boys High School and we wish him good fortune as he moves ahead in his professional career. The colleagues and students of these two staff members will always remember them with fondness and their commitment to all facets of Blakehurst High School will not be forgotten. Ms Cheryl Hudspeth, one of our Learning Support teachers has gained a full time position at Caringbah North Primary School. Ms Julie Dupuy, our French Assistant is returning to France. Good luck to these staff members. Ms Deborah Fabrizio will also be absent next year. We wish her the best as she takes maternity leave for 2015.

Mrs V Manos
Deputy Principal
What an amazing year it has been!

A very big ‘Thank You’ to our CAPA team - Mrs Shaw, Ms Strudwick, Mrs Bourtsouklis, Mrs Bellato, Mrs Codey and Mr Jenkins. And a special thank you to Mr Watters who was always there to step in when we needed him, and for coming along every Monday to help with our school band.

The students at Blakehurst High are indeed very fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team to foster their creativity and learning in the Creative and Performing Arts. And, thank you to the students who have made it all worthwhile for us too! We look forward to doing it all bigger and better again in 2015!!

Visual Arts 2014

It is with the greatest delight that I acknowledge the outstanding effort of one of our Year 12 Visual Arts HSC students: Max Worland. Max’s HSC Artwork was selected as an outstanding artwork for display in Art Express – the most prestigious of artwork installations for all NSW HSC Visual Arts students. Congratulations Max and congratulations to Ms Tanya Bourtsouklis (his talented and creative art teacher)!! We are so very proud of you both!! Max’s stunning artwork can be viewed at Hazelhurst Art Gallery in Gymea from 7 February 2015.

We have also included some of the other artworks in this newsletter for you to have a look at. Our Year 12 2014 Artworks will be on display in BHS Library early in 2015 for all to see and admire.

Schools’ Spectacular 2014

Mrs Shaw and Ms Jacobsen took a group of 45 students from Years 7 - 11 to watch this year’s Schools’ Spectacular at the Qantas Credit Union Arena. We were thoroughly entertained once again with first class performances from students from all over NSW. It just seems to get better and better every year. Our students were fantastic – it was a pleasure to take them out. They were well groomed in their Blakehurst High uniform and their behavior was outstanding.

From time to time I get to hear about the activities that many of our students participate in outside of the classroom and this year has been no exception.

We have two very talented musicians who participate in the Sydney Southeast Symphonic Wind Ensemble: Jamie Hardy (an amazing drummer) and Howard Ling (equally amazing on saxophone). This year instead of performing as part of the foyer entertainment at the Schools Spectacular the Wind Ensemble held their own special concert a couple of weeks ago on Sunday 23 November. Originally this performance was set to take place at Gunnamatta Bay in Cronulla, however, due to the extreme weather conditions on that day it was transferred to Caringbah High School – so many of us missed the performance because we were not aware of the change of venue because we were not aware of the change of venue until we arrived at Gunnamatta Bay.

I was also very privileged to attend a little drama performance at The Shopfront Theatre at Carlton last Saturday 29 November, thanks to the invitation of Anna He. Anna He and Claire Hart (Yr 7) have been participating in all sorts of drama workshop activities and theatre sports this year at The Shopfront Theatre and their final performance was called ‘The Hungry Games’ – a little take on the ever popular ‘Hunger Games’. The production was very entertaining for all in the audience and it certainly looked like the cast were really enjoying it too! That’s about all the news now for 2014.

On behalf of the CAPA team, I would like to wish everyone in the Blakehurst High School community the very best for the festive season and a safe and restful break.

Happy holidays to all!
Max Warlond
Apotheosis
Series of 5
Pencil drawings
60x170cm ea

ARTEXPRESS
Opens at Hazelhurst on February 7
YEAR 12
Visual Art 2014

Jonathan Wong – Sculpture ‘Fractured’

Stephen Macris – from a series of 7 Photography & Digital Media

Sydney Forsythe, Drawing
‘Visibility’ - From a series of 3

Jason Cheung, Painting
‘Infinite’ from a series of 3

Mrs J Jacobsen
Head Teacher & CAPA Team
On Monday 8th December, Year Seven went to the Sydney Jewish Museum as part of our anti-bullying program. Bullying continues to be a real problem in our society. Adults and children can become victims. **Bullying is where a person or group repeatedly and deliberately hurts and upsets another person.** There are many forms of bullying such as verbal, social, cyber, physical and psychological bullying. A **bystander** is someone who sees the bullying take place. Bystanders have a responsibility to help the victim by intervening in the situation or informing another person about it. Victims of bullying should seek help from a peer, parent, teacher or another adult they trust.

Visiting the Sydney Jewish Museum and learning about the **Holocaust** was an eye opening experience. During the 1930s, the Germans targeted the Jewish people and other minority groups who they believed were different. During World War II, the Nazi Party decided to get rid of Jewish people across Europe.

At the museum, we met an elderly woman named **Olga Horak, a survivor of the Holocaust**. Olga has lived in Sydney since 1949. She immigrated to Australia from Czechoslovakia after World War II. She works as a volunteer guide at the Museum. Olga spoke about her older sister who was taken by guards one evening, and she was never seen again. The neighbour gave keys to her home to Olga’s family under the pretence that she was helping them. She then brought the guards. Olga, her parents and grandmother were taken to Auschwitz. Once there, she was separated from her father and she never saw him again. From Auschwitz she was forced to march to northern Germany. The war lasted for six years before the British army liberated them on the 12th of April 1945. She and her mother were registered as survivors but her mother died on the day of their liberation.

Having never gone through a war, it is very difficult for us to imagine the suffering of the Jewish people. Their experience was tragic as six million of them were murdered. It is wonderful that there were survivors who could tell their story to the world so that the mistakes of the past will never be repeated.

Overall, we have learned that **bullying is very destructive** and that we should never participate in that sort of behaviour. We should never just stand by and watch as others are bullied instead we should always seek help. **All people have human rights and should be respected and treated equally.**

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**Sarah Thanos Year 7**
The Science Faculty wishes the Blakehurst High School Community
Season’s Greetings and all the best for 2015.

**Staff Changes**

Congratulate go to Mr Baker for his promotion to Head Teacher at Hurstville Boys’ High. Mr Baker has been a teacher at BHS for almost 14 years and we will miss him as a colleague and valued friend when he takes up his new position at the beginning of next year.

Ms Fabrizio is taking maternity leave from Day 1 next year and Ms Jarman will be filling the temporary position until the end of Term 3. Ms Jarman has previously worked in the Science Faculty, and is highly regarded by students and staff alike.

**November in the Blue Mountains**

On an unseasonably hot November Day; the time of the year when Yearly exams have been completed and teachers are once again devising new ways to enrich their lessons and keep students interested and actively engaged, we get onto the bus and set off on the long-awaited trip to the Blue Mountains.

More than a hundred Year 9 students are in attendance. In the air-conditioned comfort of the spacious bus we settle in our seats and chat the minutes away as Sydney gradually falls behind and the bus exits the highway and drops a gear to climb the winding road leading to the mountains. The trip slips unnoticed. Along the way we stop twice: first at Emu Plains McDonalds for some rest and food; the second at Echo Point, where students spread about to marvel at the panorama of greenery and, while at it, pose for selfies and group shots with friends clustered about and the Three Sisters an unmistakable landmark looming grey in the backdrop.
Soon afterwards we arrived at Scenic World. There, students are divided into groups and guides from the facility are introduced and allocated. Down the steep railway we descend, bellows and gasps of delight escaping nearly everyone in the caged carriage as the earth tilts at an awkward angle and we experience the sort of a journey early coal miners had to take on a daily basis to make it to work. A minute or so later we reach the bottom of the railroad and get off the carriage to find our perpendicular again. We are at the bottom of Jameson Valley. Trees all around. Trapped heat in the air. Overhead, the generous Blue Mountains sky now a swathe of blue framed by cliffs and streaked white by the odd cloud.

The guide allocated to my group leads the way. First he takes us through the history of coal mining in the Blue Mountains, peppering us with information and anecdotes as he walks us past placards and statues built along the route to illustrate this fact or that. Did you know that Welsh were favoured for coal mining because they tended to be of small build? Or that horses used for shuttling coal had to be laid on their backs inside carriages, with their feet all tied up, so they could be safely hauled down the valley, and then up again when their stint was over? Or that some miners had to build cottages inside the valley to save themselves money and time shuttling back and forth to work? Here…a replica of a miner’s cottage. Have a look inside.

I am still mulling over all these facts, walking alongside my group and happily relegating myself to the anonymity of the shadows, when we step into the tranquility and sudden coolness of a tropical rainforest. Here, the guide wraps up his presentation on coal mining history and now launches into another, this one revolving around ecology, botany, geology, a combination of. The group listens attentively, spotting a pair of lyre birds here, a drizzle of pollen elsewhere; walking beneath a canopy thick as only a rainforest’s might be and glimpsing little of the sky save in places where a tree has succumbed to the natural progression of things and, in the sudden gap, sunlight has seeped through as if from behind a bank of winter clouds and lit up a patch of earth already teeming with seedlings and other competing shrubs.

We finish touring the rainforest and walk up to the Cableway. Into the enclosed cabin, cherishing a top view of Jameson valley all the while gliding to the top of the escarpment again. Into a restaurant with panoramic views, where food, drinks and ice cream (especially ice cream) are ordered, chats are struck and loved ones in Sydney are called: yes Dad, we’re fine. Should be back by four. And finally back into the shuttle bus where students fall into their seats, put on their iphones and surrender to the rhythm of the road and the tune of whatever music their electronic gadgets happen to be playing at the time.

It has been an enjoyable day—one of those one would appreciate more in hindsight than in the heat of the moment (no pun intended.) And it went all too smoothly—a feat that is never possible without the collective effort of teachers and support staff. Special thanks to Ms O’Brien for coordinating the excursion. Also to Mr Hewetson, Ms Ko and Mr Roff for their great help on the day. Last but not least, thank you, Year 9, for conducting yourselves with the politeness and dignity reflective of the school ethos.

Christmas is in the air. Wishing you all a happy and safe break with family and loved ones. Until another trip comes along…

.......Mr Estephan
......Science

Mrs L O’Brien
Head Teacher Science
ENGLISH News

As the year draws to a close, I wish to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of all our students. I want to encourage students to take advantage of holiday borrowing from the school Library and begin reading for the Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2015. For the students getting their HSC results, I wish you all the best as you face the challenges and excitement of the years ahead. For our current Year 12 students, use your time wisely and ensure that you do sufficient study in preparation for your HSC. Best wishes for the holidays, and look forward to seeing you next year!

Year 8 Debating Team
This year has seen our Year 8 Debating Team compete in the 2014 Premier’s Debating Challenge against numerous public schools across New South Wales. The competition was undertaken in three stages with each team involved in several debates against schools within their selected zone.

Although our enthusiastic team narrowly missed out on the final, our debaters were successful in securing two wins out of a possible three rounds. Their tenacity and team spirit must be acknowledged as well as their respectful behavior when representing our school. It has been my pleasure to have been team leader throughout the 2014 competition and I look forward to leading the next group of diligent debaters in 2015. I wish to thank all of our debaters for their wonderful service to our school.

......Ms Shaw
......Debating Coordinator

Year 7 Poems
Year 7 have completed a unit on Endangered Animal species and as part of their Animal Welfare Campaign, they had to create a poem about their chosen animal. Below are some of the poems created by Ms Plessas’ 7BE students.

Bonobo Monkey

The black beast lays awake

Fur dancing in the breeze,

It cringes in undenying pain

As it remembers it’s not free.

It dreams about the past

When it was wild and free,

When it ran around

And swung from tree to tree

The Bonobo Monkey taps the walls of his glass prison

Dreading what the future may hole,

Fear starts eating at the back of his neck and spinal cord

For surely he would be trapped forever...

With no chance of escape whatsoever.

By Eugenlya Nazarova 7BE
**Black Rhinos**

We Black Rhinos, are defeated animals,
Trudging by the dull, dusty plains.

No time to sleep, no time to eat,
We are running away.

We, Black Rhinos, are vulnerable animals,
Hunted for reasons unknown.
What did we do, to get killed every day,
Our horns sawed off and skin bleeding?

We, Black Rhinos, are tender animals,
Raising our young with great care.

So why do you kill, our mothers and calves,
Knowing you're killing our hope?

We, Black Rhinos, are defeated animals,
Trudging by the dull, dusty plains.

Once we were strong, but now we are weak,
Burdened with likely extinction.

By Polina Pavlenki 7BE

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**The Giant Panda**

A white angel with black wings landing on the tree
Hand with bamboo and mouth full of leaves.

It likes to stay under the sun but lives in the cave
Never hibernates but always falls into dream.

It walks like a pigeon but its size is like a bear.

People don’t hunt them but take their bamboo away.
Animals are as cute as angels so let us keep them safe!

By Kasey Zhou 7BE
If you are considering buying a new laptop for your son or daughter for Christmas, please have a look at the specifications for our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) so it can be used at school.

Also download a copy of the Student Agreement and return it signed to Mrs Alchin or Mr Foster in the Library. The specifications and Agreement can be found on the school webpage under Our School: Bring your own Device (LHS at the bottom).

**Year 12 2015**
Please see Mr Foster about having your DER laptop “unlocked”. This will mean you will be able to download programs etc to the laptop, BUT it does mean that the school will not be able to give you as much IT support to keep your laptop running smoothly. The process takes about 1 day to complete, so be prepared to be without your device for the day.

**Skoolbag app**
Watch out for our exciting new app coming in 2015. Our Skoolbag app will allow us to communicate directly with both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). The app will allow you to receive news of school events, excursions, newsletters and documents. The app will be available early Term 1, 2015.
Blakehurst High once again can be very proud of our readers in Years 8 and 9. Not only did we have over one hundred students complete the PRC, but four of our Year 9 students were awarded the highest honour of the Premier's Medal. Nathan Driscoll, Monica Gee, Rachel Huang and Geean Li all received this award for completing the Challenge every year from Year 3 until Year 9. As only 250 of the medals were awarded across the state to students attending both government and non-government schools, this is a wonderful achievement and they should be very proud of themselves.

We also had the highest number of Platinum awards ever for our school. These are given to students who have completed the Challenge for 6 consecutive years, which is also a great effort.

**Year 7**
Connie Ko

**Year 8:**
Angela Assi, Queenie Chen, Sally Ibrahim, Chris Zhao Wang and Riley Ward

**Year 9**
Laura Seib and Alex Ristevski

We look forward to some more medal winners next year!

The following students were awarded a Gold Award, for completing the PRC 4 consecutive years. Another great, consistent effort!

**Year 7**
Maggie Chen, Tianna Draganova, Hayley Jiang, You Liu, Polina Pavlenko, and Emily Wong

**Year 8**
Bianca Cao, Jasmine Carroll, Crysanthi Diasinos, Mohammed Farran, Melissa Puckeridge, Aya Tanana and Orvella Winarta

**Year 9**
Callista Wong, Meggie Yao and Elaine Yeung

Congratulations! A great, consistent effort from all of you, continue to enjoy your reading.

**Remember:** Consistent reading throughout high school has been proved to be the most accurate indicator of academic success!
It is Christmas holiday borrowing time.

We have many exciting new purchases available to students for holiday reading. We like to encourage students to take home not only a novel, but also some non-fiction books on activities or personal interests e.g. fishing or cooking.

New in the Library
We have new books from some of our most popular authors, next books in series and some great new authors. Make sure you come up and borrow something to read for the holidays.

Some of our new titles include:

- **Bane** - Cassandra Clare’s new book. A new series from the author of Mortal Instruments.
- **Skyfire** - The final instalment in Chasing the Valley series
- **Dreams of Gods & Monsters** - the sequel and conclusion to the Daughter of Smoke and Bone series by Laini Taylor
- **The Queen of the Tearling** - An exciting new action/fantasy romance series by new author Erika Johansen
- **The World’s Craziest Football Matches** - by Colin Mitchel
- **Handmade Gifts** - more than 70 step-by-step ideas to make
- **Rob Paxevanos’ Australian fishing basics**
- **Printing Things** - Visions and essentials for 3D printing

Enjoy a Happy & Relaxing Holiday
Kogarah Library Holiday Activities

Local Libraries have many interesting activities aimed at families and young people. Here is a sample below. Flyers are available in the School Library for those interested in checking the entire program.

**Paper Cutting Workshop**
Art+Craft+Design

Learn how to craft a beautiful and visually stunning piece of artwork using paper and a scalpel blade. Make your paper cut design from provided stencils or design your own theme. No experience necessary. Tools supplied.

**SOUTHERN HURSTVILLE LIBRARY**
Monday 19 January 2015
10am – 11.45am

**KOGARAH LIBRARY**
Tuesday 20 January 2015
10am – 11.45am

**OATLEY LIBRARY**
Wednesday 21 January 2015
10am – 11.45am

**PLACES ARE LIMITED**
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

BOOKINGS AT:
www.kogarahlibrary.eventbrite.com.au
or phone 9330 9520
ENQUIRIES: shok@kogarah.nsw.gov.au

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**TAKE 5 Challenge for Youth**

*December 2014 – January 2015*

Read five books, one from each of the following genres, and submit your form to enter in a draw to win EB Games gift vouchers.

- Adventure
- Fantasy
- High School
- Graphic Novels
- Apocalyptic/Post Apocalyptic

Join our Take 5 Challenge from 1 December 2014. Entry forms available at any branch. Winners will be announced at our TAKE 5 Challenge PIZZA Party Presentation.
Mrs Alchin/Mrs Larson
Teacher/Librarian/PRC Coordinators
As we near the end of the school year for 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful students for the hard work they have put in all year. To the TAS Home Economics staff, I thank you for your commitment to our students and their learning.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all have a safe and peaceful holiday break.

Year 9 Food Technology Assessment Task
Cake Decorating!

This term Year 9 Food Technology have worked on planning a birthday party portfolio as well as design a birthday cake to be decorated for the occasion. Pictures of some of the outstanding designs the students produced are included.

Congratulations to all students who participated and worked hard to design exceptional birthday cakes.
Well done Year 9!

Year 12 Food Technology Sydney Fish Market Excursion

On Thursday 11th December 2014, our Year 12 Food Technology students and their teacher, Mrs J Simpson, headed off to the Sydney Fish Market (SFM). They all had to meet at Hurstville station at 5:30am as the Behind the Scenes Tour starts at 6:40am.

The tour was conducted by a trained SFM guide who took the students and Mrs Simpson for a behind the scenes tour to explore all facets of the market and its operations.

The TOUR included:
- Explanation of how the Dutch auction and buying system works
- Tour of the auction floor, viewing over 100 species
- Witness Oyster shucking
- Find out about sashimi, live product and specialist seafood retailers.

The experience was invaluable as this provides our Year 12 students with an in-depth look at a specific sector of the Australian Food Industry.
Mrs N Dexter
Head Teacher TAS Home Economics
From the CAREERS Adviser…

Jobs4Kids
This term a group of students from years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops through the Jobs4Kids program facilitated by staff from the Career Connections Brighter Futures team. The workshops covered:

- Career investigation
- Creative job seeking skills
- Interview techniques
- Employers rights and responsibilities
- Resume writing and targeting the right positions
- Communication skills in the workplace
- Links to real jobs

The Jobs4Kids program was very worthwhile as it assisted to empower students with employability and job search training skills. In addition students were provided with opportunities to work in different industries through work experience placements. Students are pictured above with Jobs4Kids facilitators Nathan and Kim.

Taste of TAFE
Year 9 students attended two Taste of TAFE excursions this term to Sydney TAFE in Ultimo and the Enmore Design Centre. Over the two days students participated in a variety of workshops including:

- Fashion Design
- Music Creation
- Studio Photography
- Digital/Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- 3D Animation
- Film Prosthetics/ Special Effects Make-up
- Concept Art- Illustration for Film and Games
Each of the workshops were facilitated by qualified TAFE teachers who were also industry professionals. One of the teachers in the photography workshop for instance had worked on the film ‘The Hobbit’.

The workshops included a practical activity in the different vocational areas, where students were given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and create their own mini project.

Students also viewed the end-of-year exhibitions at both the Ultimo and Enmore campuses. The Taste of TAFE days were a great way for students to try out different courses and many were inspired to study TVET courses.

Ms L Evers
Relieving Careers Adviser
Mathematics in Surveying

A group of 15 Year 10 students travelled with Mrs Allen to Bicentennial Park (on the hottest day in November!) for an excursion run by current and retired surveyors. The aim of the day was to apply mathematical skills in a practical setting.

The surveyors had set up an excellent range of activities for the students. They began by witnessing a demonstration of the use of drones to survey the land from the air. This was followed by an informative and practical talk on the history of surveying. The students were very interested to see and understand the earlier methods that were used to measure and map land areas.

Supported by surveying university students, the students took part in exercises where they used electronic equipment to measure angles and their own trigonometric skills to work out the height of a tower. They also undertook a mapping exercise, the data from which was later used in a computer laboratory to map the area surveyed. The students also used a laser interferometer to locate items scattered about the park. Another informative activity had students using the sundial at the park to calculate the radius and circumference of the earth.

The day was extremely well organised by the surveying committee and enjoyed by all who attended.

Surveying Incursion

In December one of our local surveyors, Bob Harrison (an ex-Blakehurst HS student; which was very warmly regarded by the students) brought some of his colleagues into the classroom for our Year 11 extension students. They brought in some of their equipment, explained how it is used and gave some demonstrations. The students had the opportunity to look through the telescope of a theodolite and to see the scanning machines in action. The surveyor who had recently completed his degree gave a great discussion on his experience at university. It was a great experience for many and we appreciate the time of the professionals who gave up their work time to share their passion and enjoyment of surveying and mathematics.
Classes for 2015
We were very impressed with the work ethic shown by the students as we approached the end of term. All students had end of year exams on common work to assist us in placing them in the correct class for 2015 (note that all their exams throughout the year were used as well). The new Year 12 also experienced their first HSC assessment task.

Many students will be in a different class to 2014. This decision was based on each student’s performance in class tests and the final exam, and observations from teachers. During the first semester we still may make some changes.

We have decided to change the names of our classes to better reflect that some pairs and triples of classes operate in parallel (i.e. a similar mix of ability) rather than a definite 1, 2, 3 etc. There will be no designated “top” or “bottom” class but rather groupings that reflect that level.

Years 9 and 10 have always been in syllabus bands for Stages 5.3, 5.2 and 5.1 (that’s from highest to lowest). They still will be. In Year 8 all students study the same Stage 4 syllabus (but some are modified with regards the difficulty) and they will also be “paired” together where each pair could be in parallel.

Our new names will be:
8M, 8E, 8D, 8I, 8A and 8N
9S, 9Q, 9U, 9A, 9R, 9E and 9D
10C, 10O, 10S, 10I, 10N and 10E

Mathletics over the holidays!
Yes, this can be used during the holidays and is encouraged. It’s fun and your child’s teacher has set them at a level appropriate to their current ability.

www.mathletics.com.au

Getting ready for 2015
We know the students are always very keen to buy their new stationary. For maths they will need a:
• Scientific calculator (we sell the Casio FX82AU-Plus II for $22, you may find it cheaper during sale time)
• Several pens, sharp pencils, eraser
• Ruler
• Protractor, compass (used for some topics)
• Exercise book (any size, they can have many during the year) AND/OR Grid book (great for the topics that involve graphing)
• Textbook cover (we sell these at school and they last for years)

All these items are essential. All students will have a maths class in their first week and we would like them all to be ready with their stationary.

Blakehurst Bleed Again!
In December dozens of year 10 and 11 students rolled up their sleeves and donated their blood.

We now travel to the blood donor centre twice a year (since 16 and 17 year olds can only donate once in a 12 month period) and the first timers, as always, were very keen. A huge thank you to Mr Reeve for becoming our new teacher coordinator and encouraging so many students to help others.

Mrs A Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics
Year 6 Transition Program

Transitioning into high school can be very difficult and overwhelming for year 7 students. It poses a host of obstacles including a whole new environment and a sea of new faces. Our aim was to help ease Year 6 students into high school and make them more comfortable, confident and excited.

As Peer Support Leaders, Jana Atanasova, Daniel Macris, Harpal Doad, Nurtasya Afalon, Thomas Lambropoulos, Jasmina Causevic, Hamish Irving and Fattoum Diab, visited 3 local Primary Schools (Connells Point, Blakehurst and Carlton South) to put a friendly face to the Blakehurst High School name.

In pairs, we worked with groups of students to make them more familiar with our school and to get to know a few students who are more than willing to help them when they come to high school next year.

Year Advisors Ms Nozica, Ms Grima and Ms Lambert created a range of activities for the students that included reading and understanding our complex timetables as well as getting around to different classes. Other activities such as problem solving also introduced a variety aspects of Blakehurst High School. Students were given the opportunity to ask many burning questions about high school and to get to know students who are already successful members of our school community.

Overall, the Transition Program was a success as students gained confidence in coming to Blakehurst High School and understanding of the basics. The Peer Support Leaders that participated also gained more experience in working with juniors and acting as leaders and role models.

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7s in the new year!

......Jana Atanasova
......Daniel Macris

Ms N Nozica
Year 7 Adviser 2015
LOTE Report

Reflecting on this year and all that the Language department has achieved I cannot help but be amazed!

The staff in LOTE works tirelessly to ensure that they not only deliver engaging lessons every day to ensure that each student attains results that reflect their potential but that they are also culturally developed. This year LOTE has had Year 7 Languages Day, Year 8 Carnevale Day, Year 9 Languages Camp, Year 10 French Trip as well as the Year 11 Greek/Italian trip to Melbourne. Add to this the numerous Restaurant Visits, French Breakfasts, Greek Cooking Classes, Gelato Day, Crepe Day, Cake Days, Chinese Feasts and Sushi Days to celebrate the various cultural festivals that take place throughout the year in the various languages.

I marvel at the dedication and tireless work ethics of the Languages Staff who always put the wellbeing of their students first. I am eternally grateful for their support and effort and thank them for this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms J Smith, Ms R Evangelinos, Ms T Loizos, Ms X Chen, Ms C Winston, Ms C Lao and finally Mr A Digiacomo without whom none of this would be possible. I would also like to extend a special thank you Ms J Dupuy our French Assistant who is leaving us at the end of the year to return to Paris. I know I will definitely miss her as will her students especially Year 11 and Year 9 French. Her help has been invaluable this year adding authenticity to our French lessons with special sayings or explanations. We know we will stay in touch but it is nevertheless sad to farewell not only a colleague but friend as well.

We will also farewell Ms D our Greek Assistant who has been here at Blakehurst High School for the past two years working with our Greek students and instilling in them a love of the Greek Language.

Special thanks must also go to Mr Digiacomo who will not be leaving Blakehurst High, but rather the Languages department. He will be working in Support in 2015. Mr Digiacomo fitted in very well in LOTE and believe me it is not easy being the only male in a staffroom of women. I wish him all the best for next year.

I would like to wish all the parents and students a happy holiday and look forward to a new year in 2015.

Ms Alison Peachey
Head Teacher Mathematics

The Year 11 French Class presenting Ms Dupuy with a Thank You Gift.

Year 7 at the 'Little Snail' Restaurant.
FRENCH Restaurant Visits

All the French classes completed their year of learning French with a restaurant visit. On each occasion the students were given the opportunity of tasting French Delicacies such as pate, Escargots (Snails), and typical French meals such as Coq au Vin, Porc avec une sauce Dijon, or Saumon.

The Year 7 French Classes visited the famous Little Snail restaurant, an icon in Sydney. The Year 8, 9 and 11 French Classes went to a new venue La Grillade in Crows Nest. As you can see from the photos below everyone had a wonderful time. My thanks must go to Ms Evangelinos for organising the Little Snail visit and to Ms Dupuy for accompanying each of the classes.
On the 11th of December 2014, the year 9 Japanese class went to Ichiban Teppanyaki for lunch. We were all very egg-cited! We ate fish seasoned with pepper, soy sauce and garlic butter, teriyaki chicken, salad and fried rice. The egg-cellent chef threw us raw eggs, fried eggs and fried rice! At the end of the meal the chef wrote a message in salt upside down on the teppanyaki grill. We had a great day! MERRY CHRISTMAS!
MELBOURNE Visit in October 2014

At the beginning of Term 4 the Year 11 Modern Greek and Italian classes went to Melbourne for a cultural experience.

We arrived at Melbourne and met our coach driver who took us to our hotel. Our accommodation was fantastic, right in the centre of the city, so we were able to walk to Southbank and take in the lovely scenery.

We visited the Immigration Museum where we traced our family history and the Hellenic Museum where we saw the Benaki exhibition. The highlight of our trip was the scenic drive to the 12 Apostles. The food experience was unforgettable as we were in awe of the cake display in Brunettis Cake shop and the Italian and Greek food in various restaurants and cafes. This was an unforgettable experience that shall remain with us forever.
The Senior Prefects have started their prefect year with a very successful Movember fund raising campaign, raising over $900. They would like to thank Mr Yelavich for his support in growing a moustache and submitting to a public shaving by some rather inexperienced Prefects to aid this most worthy fundraising event, for prostate cancer. The cake stall was also much appreciated by those who purchased a yummy moustache shaped biscuit or decorated cup cake.
CHINESE STUDENTS’ Excursion

On 12/12/2014, organised by Ms Chen their class teacher, Year 10 Preparation Class had an excursion with some of our student prefects for a picnic lunch at Carss Park. It was a sunny day when the newly arrived students met our Senior Prefects outside school. At first the new students were very shy and reluctant to participate but they soon became quite involved in those games well designed by our Senior Prefects. Please see the photos attached. We had a great time and it was just the beginning of our Acculturation Project in Blakehurst High School. Many thanks to these Senior Prefect students who contribute their time and energy to this program.

Mrs A Mangraviti
Head Teacher LOTE
Year 12 2014
I would like to wish all 2014 Year 12 students all the very best on their HSC results and aspirations for the future. I am sure that all students will move into productive and enjoyable futures in 2015.

Outstanding results have been achieved by students in all years in PDHPE. Congratulations to the following students who have achieved first place in their respective year groups:

Year 7: Natalie Wood
Year 8: Shivani Singh
Year 9 PDHPE: Sarahpheinna Woulf
Year 9 PASS: Lilyyanna Oliek
Year 10 PDHPE: Thomas Lambropoulos
Year 10 PASS: Liam Judd
Year 11 PDHPE: Tamika Kosashi
Year 11 Sports Coaching: David Hughes
Year 11 SLR: Shaun Wood

PDHPE 2015
PDHPE courses have once again proven popular with students moving into Year 11 in 2015. We have three 2 unit PDHPE classes which are very full; and two Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation classes. Mr Kemp, Mr Smith and Miss Berrett will teach the 2 unit classes, Mr Smith and Mr Yelavich-SLR.

Year 10 has two Physical Activity and Sports Studies classes, taught by Mr Yelavich and Mr Smith and Year 9 will have two Physical Activity and Sports Studies classes, taught by Mrs Johnson and Miss Berrett.

Year 7-10 PDHPE programs have been updated to incorporate the latest in technology and the most relevant and up to date information. This will ensure that our students have the best sources of information to make responsible and informed decisions as they develop into young adults.

Indigenous Games Unit
The new Indigenous Games unit that was introduced for Year 7 in 2014 proved to be very successful and will be conducted in Year 7 again in 2015. This unit includes various games and activities that relate to and are played by our Indigenous communities and will give our students the opportunity to participate in and learn more about our indigenous culture.

SALSA Program
2014 saw the introduction of the SALSA Program (Students as Life Style Activists) and thanks to the organisation from Mrs Rizzo-Liu this proved to be very popular and successful. The program involves training selected Year 10 students to deliver lessons on Healthy Lifestyles. Sydney University students train our students to deliver these lessons to our Year 8 classes. This program will occur again in 2015.

End of Year Interest Electives
During the last three days of this term, December 15th to 17th each year will participate in special End of Year Interest Electives as follows. Please see a more detailed program on the following page.

- Year 7 – Compulsory Swim School
- Year 8 various activities including: Fishing, Denim handbag Making, Film Appreciation, School Sport and Table Tennis.
- Year 9-Peer Support training
- Year 10-Senior Learning and Management Program
- Year 11-25 hour Compulsory PDHPE Course

I hope all students and their families have a safe and happy Christmas break and I look forward to seeing everyone back in 2015.
Parents/Caregivers

During the last week of Term 4, Monday December 15 up to and including Wednesday December 17, ALL students will be participating in COMPULSORY programs to ensure that the last three days of school are productive, beneficial and enjoyable.

Each year group will have specifically designed programs as follows:

- **Year 7** - A Learn to Swim/Stroke Correction/Life Saving Program at Carss Park Pool
- **Year 8** - An Activities Program where students chose an activity to participate in for the three days. These activities may include: Sights of Sydney, Fishing, Movie Appreciation, Sporting Pursuits or Table Tennis. Venues and costs will be dependent on the activity,
- **Year 9** - Peer Support Training and selection of Peer Support Leaders for 2015,
- **Year 10** - Senior School Transition Program including the COMPULSORY "All My Own Work" Course,
- **Year 11** - 25 Hour COMPULSORY PDHPE Cross Roads Course including: A Resuscitation Certificate, Expert Guest Speakers who discuss lifestyle issues that are prevalent and sometimes dangerous for young people and a day visit to Cataract Adventure Park where students will participate in activities such as caving, abseiling, a giant waterslide, flying fox and challenge valley to develop strong and trusting bonds between the students in Year 11. The school looks forward to your support in ensuring that your child attends these three days. A great amount of time and effort has gone into ensuring that your child has the most beneficial learning experience during this time.

More specific information for each year group will be forwarded with your child in the early weeks of Term 4, but if you require any information in the interim I can be contacted at school on 9546 3281.

Yours in Sport,

Mr Yelavich
Head Teacher/PDHPE
With the completion of Summer Grade Sport, Blakehurst High was successful in winning 14 grade sport championships. Congratulations to the following teams and respective coaches for winning their competitions:

**Congratulations:**
- 3rd Grade Girls Table Tennis
- 4th Grade Girls Table Tennis
- 1st Grade Boys Table Tennis
- 13A Boys Mini Soccer
- 14A Boys Mini Soccer
- 16A Boys Mini Soccer
- 13A Girls Mini Soccer
- 13B Girls Mini Soccer
- 13A Girls OZTAG
- 13B Girls OZTAG
- 15A Girls OZTAG
- 14B Girls Table Tennis
- 14A Boys Touch Football
- 13’s Boys Cricket

Looking back in the year we had, Blakehurst High was the most highly represented school in the St George Zone Grade Sport competitions, entering 63 summer teams and 56 winter teams culminating with 12 winter and 14 summer premierships. That is 5 more summer premierships, so well done to all involved. Blakehurst High school was crowned Champion Girls School in the winter sports season in the St George Zone for the seventh consecutive year and also took out the champion girl’s school for summer sport. It is a wonderful achievement to win the winter and summer point score in the same season.

In recognition for their outstanding contribution to not only Blakehurst High School, the following students received a St George Blue Award for their continued success and representation of St George Zone at Sydney East Competitions and NSWCCHS Carnivals throughout their time at Blakehurst High School. These Year 12 students along with their recognised sport are:

- Jack Conen – Rugby Union
- Mika Zammitt – Baseball
- Dylan McCuaig-Walton – Cross Country and Athletics
- Chadwick Aryana – Swimming

We also had a number of other students who collected awards at the St George Zone presentation. These students are as follows:

- Julia Glavincevski
- Sheridan Smith
- Tamara Milacic
- Max Poulter
- Andrew Hung
- Royd Srisawart
- Filip Trifunovski

It has been a successful year and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone return happy and healthy in 2015.

**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,

B Kemp
Sports Organiser
Seeking Hosts/Carers for our High School International Students

- **ENJOY SHARING** the ‘Australian lifestyle’ with visiting students.
- **EXPERIENCE THE REWARDS** of close cultural relationships.
- **MAKE NEW FRIENDS** from around the globe that can last a lifetime.

If you would like to host an international student attending our school, then please contact one of the registered Homestay Providers listed below

or

visit their websites for details on how to apply today!

All Homestay Providers offer 24 hour friendly service and support to students and their registered host families.

**AUZZIE FAMILIES Homestay Care**
www.auzziefamilies.com / info@auzziefamilies.com / (02) 9301 0900

**OZ HOMESTAY**

**STAY DOWN UNDER**
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

$150* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- A $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- A $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-14 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au